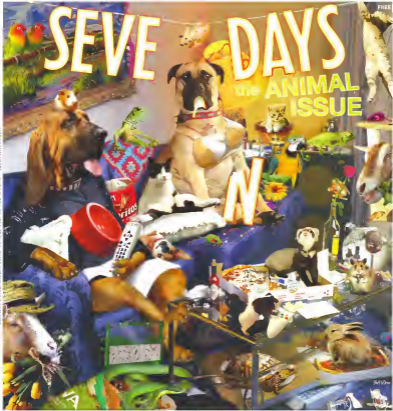


SEVEN DAYS

the ANIMAL ISSUE



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Therapy dogs lick anxiety

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GEORGE BIZET'S CARMEN [12]

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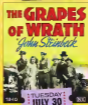
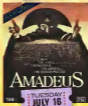
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In 2003, the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation reviewed data and public testimony OPR decided against regulating Vermont's massage therapists because evidence demonstrates that licensing does not achieve what its proponents claim. OPR's report noted, "The passage of regulation in Vermont is part of the national [massage] organizations' status-wide coordinated legislative agenda." These organizations see a lucrative revenue source in Vermont massage therapists paying membership dues and tuition for education required under their licensing proposals.

Creating a safer culture includes investigating and prosecuting crime and protecting its victims, not regulating legitimate practitioners.

Sheryl Napier-Adams
BURLINGTON

HEY, ARCHIE!

The title of my painting is wrong in Karen Kelley's review of "Inner Doors" (see Review June 15) at the Vermont Supreme Court. The title should have been "Archie"



— not "Archie." Archie Shapp is the brilliant saxophone player and political activist, he went to Goldman in the '50s — nice for a black man — and gave a concert there last winter, which I attended. I had first seen/heard him 50 years ago at the Red Hot Jazz Club in San Francisco and at 75 years ago in WWII, he is still an energetic man with his instrument. The painting "Archie" was inspired by his passionate music.

Harriet Wood
SOUTH WOODBURY

BAD MOVE FOR BURLINGTON COLLEGE

[Re "Building 101: Burlington College's Future Depends on a Big, Bold Development Plan," June 19] What is the matter with us? We look at one of the most beautiful places in Vermont and describe it as a "porcel of undeveloped land." What has happened to our

sensibility? To our good sense? To our vision, critical journalism?

In the 1980s there were a large number of rental additions to existing houses in Burlington. Individually they were legal, unobtrusive and harmless to the general fabric of the city. Collectively they were a disaster, a blight, the city's planning conscience came to understand that, and the practice was stopped.

We are facing a similarly self-destructive process with the proposed "development" of the last significant natural area of the city. Proponents will argue that these are individual, private properties, but the fact is that the benefits they confer as open, natural spaces are collective and public, and the costs of their destruction are as well.

Burlington has moved to protect the public value of private space in its most historic area: the Arm Park, Lacey Park, South Park and Oakledge Park were all donated or purchased to create a more livable city. If we want our population to grow, we need more open space, not less. Burlington College does not need to grow; it needs to grow up and recognize the value of its site, not just those of our community. It has an opportunity to expand the use of one of the most important buildings — now half empty — in our community and preserve the pristine hillside beauty of its site. If it doesn't know how to do that it should rent and make room for an institution that can.

Marlene Loken
BURLINGTON

CORRECTION

There was an error in last week's Soundbites column. Connecticut-based **CHERRIES** is an all-female band, not an all-male one, as stated in the article.

SAY SOMETHING!

Seven Days wants to publish your rants and raves. Your feedback must:

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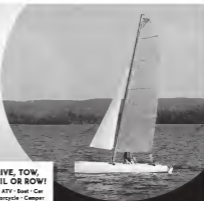


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contents

JUNE 26-JULY 3, 2010 VOL. 16 NO. 43

LOOKING FORWARD

the ANIMAL ISSUE



Furry, fuzzy, cuddly and...scaly? No matter what the pet, Seven Days readers love them and pamper them, and sometimes pay more rent because of them. **'WORKING' ANIMALS** figured in three of our stories this issue. Ken Picard met a canine who helps **REDUCE ANXIETY** at his home. Pamela Polston reviews Sue Halpern's new book about her naming home **THERAPY DOGS**, and Jacques L. Day takes special notes for **SERVICE ANIMALS** in her story about the difficulty pet owners have **PROOFING** houses. Carrie Ashken shares her **TURTLE LOVE**, while Megan James meets a woman who raises **CHICKEN GUINIGES**. Andy Bromberg reviews **ANIMAL-RELATED BILLS** passed this legislative session. And, not least, we present the winners of our annual **PET PHOTO CONTEST!** Totally newsworthy.

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FUN STUFF

straight cover
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VIDEO

Watch in Vermont. Streaming video is a hot topic now that it's so easy to watch on the web. In this video from 2008, multimedia producer Eric Pullerby talks about the challenges of the Vermont Video Festival, where the Greater Burlington Video Festival is now held.



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WEEK

1

SATURDAY 29 & TUESDAY 02 ADVENTURES IN AEROBATICS

There's no place like home, but somewhere over the rainbow, the *Glenn Tinkler Big Top Tent's* "Incorporated" is a close second. Intentional performers ages 10 through 18 dazzle audience members with their creative spin on the *Wicked* of Oz. Jaw-dropping high wire acts and torquous tumbling complement early closures on this journey into Emerald City.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 16 AND 62

2

SUNDAY 30 BIG AIR

High-flying theatrics abound at the *Stark and Morgan Charity Air Show* in Steamboat. After a skydiver kicks off the event, stunt pilots Jimmy Parker and World Acrobatics Champion Rob Holland thrill spectators of all ages with death-defying maneuvers that twist, flip and somersault their planes through space.

SEE LISTING ON PAGE 68

3

FRIDAY 28-SUNDAY 30

Stunning Stitches

How does a local patchwork quilt lead to the *Vermont Quilt Festival*? New England's oldest and largest needle and thread arts festival draws thousands from around the region, celebrating members of an organized quilting community. Gallery talks, workshops and special exhibits give attendees a glimpse of the creative processes behind these award-winning works of art.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 16

4

FRIDAY 28-THURSDAY 04

All-American Celebrations

It's time to break out the red, white and blue gear and join the revelry at one of Vermont's oldest and largest fairs. Horseback, basketball, family-friendly activities and spectacular fireworks display delight locals from Barre to Benning to Burlington and beyond. Check out the *Fourth of July Guide* for the festivities closest to you.

SEE LISTING ON PAGE 16

5

SUNDAY 30

Getting Vertical

While the Seven Mountains State doesn't have big ocean waves at its best, a patchwork of fresh water — perfect for fishing the *Vermont State-of-Puddle Festival*. One of the popular spots here is *Waldenbury Center State Park* for a day of introductory clinics, casual cruising and friendly racing on more than 30 board roads.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 16

6

FRIDAY 28 & SATURDAY 29

Palling Around

Founded by a close-knit group of gals unashamedly, the *Sheddy Gathering* is a music and camping festival with a mission to spread positive vibes. Local bands headline this assembly of talent at *Westham's Timber Ridge*, where three stages feature more than 70 acts, including Keller Williams, *Underdog*, *Poppy*, *Downland* and *Complicitur*.

SEE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 71

7

SATURDAY 29

Equal Exchange

Most hotel art lovers must be drained. *Stowish Mountain Road Resort* aims to change that. As part of an annual program that guests share complimentary lodging and full profits from the sale of their pieces, more than 60 contemporary artists — including David La Touche, Cynthia Corbally, Kyle Johnson and Tim Kent — keep their work throughout the resort and at its first art fair this weekend.

SEE ART LISTING ON PAGE 70

Wheys and Meanies



Sheldon dairy farmer **BILL ROWELL** calls himself a lifelong Republican, but his party's epic failure to steer his farm bill through the U.S. House last week left him seething.

"I thought it was a painful display of leadership on behalf of the House," he says. "Good lord, how is the world could see how much selfish display and call it leadership?"

As vice president of the Vermont-based Dairy Farmers Working Together, Rowell has spent the past seven years trying to talk Congress into addressing chronic price volatility in the dairy industry.

His best chance yet came last Thursday when the House considered a five-year renewal of the expired farm bill. (It is now a new program that would allow dairy farmers to insure themselves against increases in the price of feed and decreases in the price of milk. Equity investors, dairy advocates say, the voluntary program would penalize farmers who rapidly expand their herds when milk prices drop, which has the effect of further depressing prices.)

"When dairy is down, it's almost an impact on the economies of our state," Rowell says. "It's imperative we get this established. It's imperative we get a farm bill."

But in the present political climate, that's not looking likely.

For decades, farm bill renewals have sailed through Congress, thanks to a mostly nonpartisan alliance between rural members who support the bill's ag programs and urban members who support its nutritional-and-assistance programs.

That coalition split badly in the Senate, which voted twice in the past two years for a new farm bill — most recently earlier this month, by a vote of 40-27.

Not so in the hyper-partisan, gerrymandered House.

During the wrath of his Tea Party-dominated caucus, Speaker **JOHN BOEHNER** didn't even bother to bring a committee-passed version of the bill to the floor last year. When he finally did last week, his fellow Tea Tories the highly conservative group, stepping it off dairy stabilization program and further slashing food stamp benefits.

Rep. **COLIN PETERSON** (D-Minn.), the ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee, had promised his Republican counterpart, Rep. **FRANK LUCAS** (R-Okla.), 44 Democratic votes to get the bill across the finish line. Among them was that of Vermont's own Congressman **PETER WELCH**.

Peterson and Lucas even talked Welch into whipsawing his caucus to support the dairy program, even though the

Vermonters left the ag committee at the end of last year.

But after Republicans amended the bill to death, Welch and other Democrats bolted. In the end, just 24 Democrats voted for it, while 63 Republicans voted against it. The final vote was 55-3 in 2014.

"In my view, there was bad faith by the Republican leadership," Welch says. "Because of their goal was to pass a bill, then they had to work with the bipartisan compromise that had been reached by the ag committee. And that was going to be tough for people like me to vote for — very tough."

Tough because even the committee-passed compromise Welch supported included \$10 billion in cuts to food stamp programs, which Hunger Free Vermont program director **ROBERT KEESEY** describes as "disastrous."

IT'S IMPERATIVE WE GET A FARM BILL.

BILL ROWELL

According to Keesey, the House bill would have thrown 7000 Vermonters off SNAP/NT, the state's federally funded food stamp program, and reduced benefits received by another 10,000 Vermonters.

Program what he called a "regressive disaster," Welch says he sympathized with advocates such as Keesey who oppose what he calls "extreme food stamp cuts" but felt it was important to move the farm bill — and so dairy stabilization program — forward. Welch says he was confident that when the House and Senate versions were reconciled in conference committee, Sen. **PETER LEAHY** (D-Vt.) and other Senate Democrats would have been able to blunt the impact of the cuts.

But in the end, the House went too far for Welch.

Under pressure from dairy processors, Boehner personally lobbied to cut the dairy stabilization bill — a departure from tradition for a House speaker. And Boehner's rightwing, at right-hand man, Majority Leader **KEVIN CANTON** (D-Nev.) lobbied for an amendment that would increase work requirements for food stamp recipients.

When both amendments passed, Welch bolted. And so did.

"The speaker and the majority leader both actively intervened to prevent the compromise that was reached in committee," Welch says, calling the outcome for Vermont dairy farmers "really cruel."

So what happens next?

"There's no clear path forward at the moment," says **PAUL BOWMAN**, the state's deputy secretary of agriculture and a supporter of the stabilization program. "Nobody's talking about next steps, so that's pretty concerning."

When the House failed to act last year, the Senate agreed to a one-year extension of the current farm bill, but Senate Majority Leader **MICHAEL MEEB** (D-Nev.) said Monday he wouldn't do the same this year if the law expires in September without action.

"This is Boehner's call, not mine," Welch says. "He has to decide whether he wants to enrich the dish to the extreme wing of the Republican party by increasing, yet again, food stamp cuts to get another 70 votes. Or does he want to work with Democrats who are willing to work with him to get us to 230?"

Summer Camp-naps

If things get too hot for Welch this summer, at least he can look forward to a weekend of relaxation at the Woodstock Inn with a few of his closest lobbyist friends.

Over the weekend of August 16, Welch will be hosting a "Summer on Vermont" fundraiser, described in an invitation from his campaign as "a weekend of hiking, brewery tours, golf and more."

No word as to whether the "more..." refers to sleep-depriving in the Ottauquechee or gathering around a buffet under a full moon.

The price of admission?

According to the invitation, it's \$1000 for two "PAC attendees" — translation, DC lobbyists — \$2500 for one and just \$1000 for non-PAC ones.

But sorry guys, "You are responsible for the cost of your flight & room."

After spending Sunday touring the Long Trail brewery or playing a round of golf, out-of-town guests will dine with Welch at Quaker-run Simon Pearce restaurant, where even local yanks can get in on the schmoozing. According to a separate invitation that's been distributed within the state, Vermonters can party up \$1000 a person, or \$1500 a pair to join.

According to *Sundaylight* Foundation editorial director **MILLER HARRIS**, whose organization tracks political fundraising, only about 10 percent of campaigns hold such fundraising opportunities for DC lobbyists. And while they're perfectly legal, he says, they're not very transparent — because their money no way to find out about them unless you happen upon an invitation.

"The real problem with these events is you're going to have lobbyists and big donors able to spend a significant amount



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of time with a member of Congress — telling it to him about their issues and concerns. I don't think you can help but be influenced by them when you spend so much time with these folks," Allison says. "The first thing that occurs to me is — that certainly is a corrupting part of the political system."

Welch declined to say who his RNC fund for the event, nor would he say how much he hopes to raise. Asked how Vermonters could find out who's getting all this access, spokesman **EVAN NICKEL** said only that, "Attendees will make contributions to Welch for Congress and, therefore, will show up on the FISC [Federal Election Commission] report with the date of the contribution, name and amount."

Of course, there's no line on the FISC report for "romantic gateway with a congressman."

There is one, however, for a man teed off by how much members of Congress raise from political action committees. During Welch's last race, it amounted to \$551,000 — way more than the \$394,000 he raised from real live human beings. In the first quarter of the current election cycle, a full 82 percent of his campaign cash has come from PACs.

As to whether it's appropriate for Welch to provide such extended access to exchange for campaign contributions, Nickel says, "Congressman Welch assumes he will have a competitive race and is raising money from his supporters to finance his campaign."

This from a guy with \$1.2 million in his war chest and no credible challenger since 2006.

Nickel adds that the gifting and banter-tasting events are, "on your own" for out-of-state guests. Peter will likely only participate in the two-day event.

Done. For \$5000, I'd demand at least nine holes with the guy.

Media Notes

With little fanfare beyond a change in the masthead, the heir apparent to Vermont's most storied newspaper company was recently named editor of the *Rutland Herald*.

Word told you when recently **JOHN MITCHELL** got the job, but neither he nor the rest of the paper's top brass would return our calls last week. That might be because Mitchell wasn't eager to discuss one of his first acts as editor: presiding over the layoffs of at least four *Herald* staffers.

Last week the paper threatened the positions of chief photographer **SYMO SUMERAKIS**, assistant sports editor **CARLETON LARUE**, New England business journalist editor **ROBIN FOLLAKE** and a customer service representative, according to half a dozen current and former

employees of the company.

"I really didn't see this coming," says Laird, a 57-year-old father of three. "It came as a complete surprise to me."

Because the two of them, Laird and Sumerakis spent more than half a century at the paper, Laird joined the *Herald* for a short year stint in 1977 and returned in the mid-1990s, he says. Sumerakis has worked for the paper since 1980.

In an apologetic and clumsy post to his Facebook page last week, Sumerakis called himself "perplexed" to have spent more than

30 years photographing Rutland residents, "mistaken" by his fears and "mistaken by the job description."

Follake, who has edited the company's four business-oriented monthlies since August 2004, says she was "absolutely shocked" that her position was cut.

"I don't know what that bodes for those particular papers, but I hope they continue to be published," she said, adding that she hopes her freelance writers and editors will still have work.

Like many dailies in Vermont and throughout the country, the *Herald* and its sister paper, the *Rutland-Monpelier Times Argus*, have been bleeding staff for years.

The company laid off 16 workers in January 2009 and another 20 after spring news in 2011 flooded the *Times Argus*'s farm headquarters and destroyed its printing press.

The *Herald*'s loss of its last editor, **RANDOLPH SMITHSON**, in October of that year and his exit eliminated through attrition two full-time jobs on its sports desk. The Vermont Press Bureau, which covers state government for the two papers, dropped from three reporters to one during the last legislative session, though the company recently advertised for one of those positions.

One job that still looks pretty solid? Mitchell's.

After all, his grandfather and namesake, **WALTER W. MITCHELL**, bought the paper in 1943, and his father, **J. JOHN MITCHELL**, has served as publisher since 1993.

Stay job security if you can get it. **TD**

Ducharme, Paul Hesse worked as Peter Welch's communications director from November 2008 to March 2011

1 Letter to the Paul Wednesday mornings at 7:40 a.m. on WYVM 560 AM

2 Follow Paul on Twitter @PaulHesse

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Bears, Dogs and Hogs — Oh, My! Animal-Themed Laws Enacted in 2013

BY ANDY BRIMAGE

The Vermont Legislature went hog wild on animal-related laws in 2013. Or maybe it was wild dogs. The Sportsmen's Act of 2013, a sweeping fish and wildlife law that takes effect July 1, bans the importation of feral hogs, a invasive species that is wreaking havoc in the wilds of New Hampshire, New York and other states.

Also in that bill provisions to protect so-called "nuisance" bears that roam onto neighborhoods to dine on garbage cans, beehives or chicken coops.

Lawmakers also passed a pet-dealer bill that has come up every session for at least a decade but never before had the votes to pass.

Here's a brief rundown on some of the animal-themed bills that became law next week.

Hogs

Feral hogs aren't a problem in Vermont — yet. But they have proved incredibly destructive to property and wildlife habitat in states where they're prolific. Part of the Sportsmen's Act of 2013 would ban the importation and possession of feral hogs in Vermont.

"They outcompete other species," says Paul and Wildlife Commissioner Patrick Barry. "They can thrive in almost any environment. So once they take hold in the wild, they can be extremely difficult to get rid of."

Only one facility in Vermont is known to have feral hogs: Wild Hill Preserve, a captive hunting park in West Fairlee, where hunters pay \$750 to hunt Russian boars imported from Canada. Wild Hill co-owner Marlene Richter says she believes her husband, Bill, has already killed off all of the hogs in compliance with the new law. But she calls the situation "completely absurd."

"Our hogs have never gotten out in 32 years," she says, adding, "There's a bigger danger from feral pigs. Any farmer's pig that gets out in a very short time will become feral."

Marlene Richter says she's not sure the hunting park will remain open without big pigs.

"The bear is basically our biggest thing. We have people coming from different countries to hunt here," she says. "So I don't know if it pays for us to operate."

Dogs

Dog-breeding businesses are supposed to be licensed by the state. For years, however, Vermont law has had a loophole that allows breeders to avoid regulation if they claim the animals are for personal use.

HB 1153, a pet-dealer bill passed this session, closes that loophole by subjecting to inspections anyone who sells or exchanges animals from three or more litters. Breeders would need a permit from the town and to allow entry to its animal control officers.

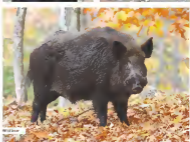
Joanne Bourbonnais, northeast regional director for the Humane Society of the United States, says the bill is aimed at "the backyard commercial breeder" selling animals from a home-based business. The problem, Bourbonnais explains, is that a lot of home breeders aren't properly vaccinating animals or otherwise caring for them, but the old law didn't allow for inspection of the premises unless abuse or neglect was suspected.

Animal welfare advocates hope the new authority empowers towns to spot potential problems before they escalate into situations like the 2011 Bala Mills puppy-mill case, in which humane society agents seized 80 Labrador retriever puppies living in unsanitary conditions from a home breeder.

After numerous failed attempts to find common ground on the pet-dealer bill, state Rep. John Bartholomew (D Hartland) was tapped last year to broker a compromise that would win support of the three main interest groups: the Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs, which represents breeding; the Humane Society; and the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association. Bartholomew is a retired veterinarian — he worked at a National Institutes of Health animal lab — and says he spent the summer and fall of 2012 mediating peace talks between



Humane Society agents at the Bala Mills puppy mill in 2011.

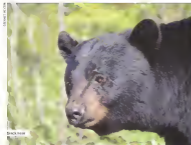


Wild boar.

the ANIMAL ISSUE



Photo by Chris



the stakeholders. By the time a bill emerged in 2003, it had enough buy-in to pass with unanimous support.

At the bill signing on June 16, Gov. Peter Shumlin used a pocket-shaped pen. "A couple of dogs showed up," Bartholomew adds.

Bears

"Misadventure bears" are a growing problem in Vermont as human venture farther into human-occupied territory. But so is one surprisingly popular human response: shooting them.

Commissioner Berry says 16 nuisance bears were killed in 2012 — and most of those deaths were preventable. When the Sportsmen's Act takes effect July 1, it'll be illegal to kill a nuisance bear without first attempting "reasonable" nonlethal measures to protect property. That includes simple fixes such as taking down bird feeders and more costly ones such as installing electric or chain-link fences.

"We don't have a bear-management problem; we have a people-management problem," is Berry's favorite line. "They wouldn't come around if there wasn't an available source of food."

The new law does have exceptions if a bear poses an imminent physical

threat. As Berry puts it, if a bear comes charging through your screen door, you can shoot it. That might have protected Shumlin in his infamous rafted encounter with a bear last year, when he discovered one going after his bird feeders at home in Rust Mountain.

A related provision of the new law prohibits the intentional feeding of black bears, which is data has not been illegal. Berry says the practice is more common than one might think, noting that a Cabot woman was hospitalized a couple of years ago after getting between a mother and her cub.

"They think they're doing these animals a favor," Berry says of bear feeders. "Those animals evolved living in this climate and this landscape, and they do just fine."

Finally, the Sportsmen's Act repeals state-funded reimbursement for property damage caused by bears and deer. Historically, Berry says, a property owner could take no precautions to ward off bears, but when the animals damaged their property, they could sue the Department of Fish & Wildlife the bill. Some years, Berry says, that tab has been as much as \$10,000. ☐

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Local Ad Campaign Seeks to Soften Pit Bulls' Dangerous Image

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

Pit bulls have a PR problem. At least, that's what the Humane Society of Cheshire County is arguing in a new ad campaign designed to debunk what they say are myths about so-called "bully" breeds.

The ads feature pit bulls adopted from the Humane Society posing with Miss Vermont Sarah Woodward, joyfully playing with children and laughing with other dogs. The message? Pit bulls can play well with others.

Megan Stearns, Humane Society director of development and outreach, says pit bulls have been unfairly branded as aggressive and dangerous, owing mostly to their use as guard dogs and in illegal dogfights. That has made Vermonters reluctant to adopt them, she says.

In fact, "pit bull" is a catchall term referring to any of several breeds with black, black and white, and tri-color markings. American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire terriers or Staffordshire bull terriers.

Humane Society employees admit they bought into the pit bull stigma at one point, too, scrutinizing would-be owners of bully breeds more rigorously than people adopting other breeds. But that's changing.

"The real issue really isn't a 'bully' because," says canine supervisor Robyn Senter, referring to small, fluffy bichon frises. The Humane Society evaluates a dog based on its "bite threshold" — whether a dog bites immediately when provoked — and its "bite inhibition," which is how hard a dog bites down.

"That has nothing to do with the dog's breed," Senter says. "It's all about that dog's personality and temperament and how they've been socialized."

But some Vermont towns and cities have enacted ordinances that ban or strictly regulate pit bull ownership. Highgate prohibits residents from owning pit bulls 30 inches St. Albans Town, which singled out American Staffordshire terriers as a breed to ban in response to a perceived uptick in pit bull ownership among suspected drug dealers, according to animal control officer David McWilliams.

McWilliams says he prefers a case-by-case approach over sweeping bans when it comes to dealing with aggressive dogs. He notes that state law already gives town officials the power to investigate dog bites,

officials have to hold a hearing after a complaint about so-called "vicious" dogs and can order a dog be seized, chained, confined or humanely put down.

But McWilliams acknowledges there are problems with pit bulls. Two years ago in St. Albans City, a chained pit bull charged through a car's window to attack two teenagers. The same dog also bit a jogger running down the street. In the end, the city council and manager ordered the dog to a local animal shelter, where it was later euthanized.

Town-wide pit bull bans are still pretty rare in Vermont. More common is what Stearns calls "random" pit bull discrimination. About once a month, she says, the humane society bans from a pit bull owner who has been named down for a rental apartment. Some insurance companies charge pit bull owners higher premiums for homeowners policies or refuse to cover claims for bites

inflicted by pit bulls, nevertheless or wolf hybrids. Farmers Insurance Group stopped covering those breeds in California earlier this year after a review of claims showed the three accounted for more than 25 percent of dog bite claims.

Colleen Lyons, of Acacia, Texas, founded Dogtastic.org after she was attacked by a leashed pit bull in Seattle in 2007. The dog reached her arm and landed Lyons in the hospital. Lyons notes that through selective breeding, pit bulls have developed tremendous jaw strength and a "hold and choke." She says, "We're not, rather than bite and release, she says, pit bulls tend to "bite and hold on."

Lyons hadn't seen the humane society's ad campaign until a reporter described it to her last summer. "It's perpetuating misinformation," she says. "Our perspective is that every pit bull is born with a dangerous tool kit, period," says Lyons. "Not every dog will go

on to use those tools, but ignoring genetics is 'telling people' the lies."

Proponents of breed-specific laws say that nationwide, pit bulls and pit bull mixes accounted for 42 percent of fatal and disfiguring dog attacks between 1982 and 2014, and that pit bull mix dogs are the most severe. But there's no national system for tracking dog bites in the U.S., and pit bull advocates say there's little evidence that banning the dogs results in fewer attacks.

In 2008, the Netherlands reported its 15-year-old ban on pit bulls because there was no noticeable decrease in dog bites. The Toronto Humane Society reported a similar phenomenon five years after Ontario enacted a breed ban.

Two years ago, pit bull owner Jessa Seiver of West Junction adopted Abby, an American Staffordshire terrier, from the humane society. The dog has been great with the family's four kids, Seiver says, noting she believes a pit bull's temperament has more to do with how it's treated and trained than with DNA.

"My pit bull doesn't go out unless it people for the sake of it," she says jokingly. ☐



Miss Vermont Sarah Woodward, in a Humane Society ad.

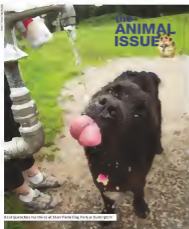
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PHOTO: JEFF BLISS/AFD

Burlington Animal Lovers Argue More Park Space Should Go to the Dogs

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY



Not quite the best of both at Star Fields Dog Park in Burlington.

Burlington may soon be more Fido-friendly, thanks to dog owners who have long been lobbying the city and its neighborhood planning assemblies. An "all-leash work group" has been meeting for months to identify new spaces where dogs can run free.

To legally let out their dogs, South End residents must travel to one of the two leashed-in dog runs the city established 18 years ago. Silver Farm in the New North End or a portion of the waterfront "urban reserve" north of the Merim Place.

Letting your dog off-leash anywhere else can result in hefty fines: up to \$100 for the first offense and \$400 for repeat violations. The Burlington Police Department has ticketed 30 dog owners — and impounded eight dogs — for lack of restraint

in the past two years, says Chief Michael Schelling.

"If you don't give people options for doing what they want to do, they do it whether or not it's legal," elected Ald. Piro, who is chairman of the all-leash work group. Most of the time, Piro oversees his 7-year-old Manchester terrier, Haley, by leashing a ball to her in the backyard of his home in the northeast corner of the city. Only "very occasionally" does he take Haley to the waterfront dog run, because it's not convenient to go there.

Parks and rec director Jesse Krupke recently told the city council that his department is "prepared to move forward immediately" in identifying "off-leash opportunities throughout the city." Parks

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Is It Possible to Keep Erotic Massage Parlors Out of Vermont?

BY KEN FIGARO

What's become of the women who worked at the three Chittenden County massage parlors Seven Days exposed for prostitution and suspected human trafficking?

Authorities won't discuss — or don't know — the fate of the female spa employees named in the June 5 cover story "Unhappy Endings: Getting a Grip on Vermont's Asian Sex Markets." All three spas named in the article have since shut down.

A fourth "erotic" massage parlor in Keese, The Evergreen Spa, closed voluntarily after Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan sent a warning letter to the building's landlord, Karen Macy. It appears three of the four businesses relocated their female employees before authorities had an opportunity to question them or offer them safe haven. River Spa in Burlington closed up shop within 24 hours of the story's publication, and Seven Days picked up and left Keese three days later.

Accompanied by a Karen-language interpreter, detectives from the Wiltshire Police Department had an opportunity to question two Harmony Health Spa employees before the spa closed permanently on the weekend of June 16. They'd previously told Seven Days they work seven days a week, up to 10 hours a day.

Donovan would not elaborate on who accompanied the cops or what services were offered. But he confirmed they were unsuccessful in convincing other women to cooperate or accept assistance from victim advocates. He added police have had "very little contact with these women" believed to be of Karen descent who have limited English-language skills or knowledge of the communities in which they lived and worked.

Donovan says the fact the women did not accept help "does not surprise me, because that has been the case for the last 10 years" in dealing with these kinds of establishments.

"I must raise concerns about the well-being and safety of those women, when we don't know where they go and they disappear," Donovan says. "That's why we've struggled to develop a new approach."

What's that new approach? On June 30, members of the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force will meet to discuss the response to the Chittenden County spas, as well as the May 7 police raid on



THREE MASSAGE PARLORS RELOCATED THEIR FEMALE EMPLOYEES BEFORE AUTHORITIES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION THEM OR OFFER THEM SAFE HAVEN.

two similar establishments in Keese. According to Barbara Whitcomb, who chairs the task force, new protocols have been drafted on how Vermont's emergency responders and victim advocates are supposed to handle future trafficking cases, including a "phone tree" of agencies that must be notified before a raid.

Additionally, the Vermont-based nonprofit Olive Way to Freedom and the International Institute of New England have just unveiled their own Rapid Response Support System for providing emergency shelter, food, medical care and counseling to suspected trafficking victims within the first 24 to 48 hours of their discovery. Judith Klimoski, Olive Way to Freedom director, declined to comment

on what, if anything, her organization did to reach out to the spa employees.

What's more, who is also public education coordinator at the Vermont Office of Crime Victim Services, says that one of the more "sensitive" things she's learned about trafficking is that some tell the employees not to speak to victim advocates because they work for police and cannot be treated. "It's really disheartening," she says.

Donovan stresses that most erotic massage parlors have ties to large, out-of-state criminal elements that are beyond the reach of local law enforcement.

"Are we going to have stronger laws on ourselves? Are we going to have massage therapists' licenses? I do think that there are some proactive steps that can be taken

that mitigate the chances of this happening again in Vermont," Donovan says.

In fact, a request that Vermont license its massage therapists, as some states have done, was rejected in recently in 2010. The American Massage Therapy Association and the Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals proposed licensure in December of that year. But Christopher Winters, director of Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation, recommended against it, writing there is "no indication that incompetent or unethical practitioners have sought regulation-free sanctuary in Vermont."

Winters specifically addressed the question of whether regulation would prevent criminal sexual activity from occurring under the guise of legitimate massage. He pointed out that master states, such as Florida and New York, that have set minimum education, training and examination standards for their massage therapists, "it has not prevented illicit activity. At best, licensure has provided a thin curtain for it to hide behind."

But Secretary of State Jen Candoe, who oversees the Office of Professional Regulation and the 45 professions it currently licenses, says he's now willing to give the issue a fresh hearing.

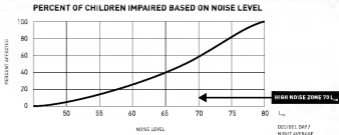
"In light of the prostitution and human trafficking issue that we're facing in Vermont, I'm certainly willing to take another look at it," he says. But Candoe emphasizes that he doesn't want a "blanket reaction to the problem" in the form of broadening, curbing or amending laws.

"Traffic is a terrible mess," Candoe adds, "but we can't just license massage therapists and think it's going away."

What have other communities done? Three municipalities in New Jersey — South Brunswick and Mount Olive — enacted tough local ordinances to more strongly punish prostitution. Following new laws that first massage parlors were tied to prostitution, human trafficking and money laundering, Mount Olive passed new health codes that require massage parlors to register their employees with the town and undergo criminal background checks. It also bans alcohol and sleeping quarters in these establishments. Employees may not touch a patron's genitals or breasts, which must also remain covered at all times, and the town can suspend a business for any criminal conviction involving sexual misconduct or "moral turpitude."

MANUELA PERAZZO/REPORT

IF THE F35 IS BASED IN BURLINGTON, 50% OF CHILDREN IN THE HIGH NOISE AREA WILL SUFFER COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT ⁽¹⁾



[1] This information is based on a 2011 World Health Organization report which was excluded from the Air Force's Environmental Impact Statement.

In addition, the Air Force Environmental Impact Statement finds that children in the high noise zone will experience significantly elevated blood pressure and stress hormone levels.

Contrary to the opinions of F35 proponents about "mitigating" noise blast, the FAA report has determined that mitigation is not possible.

The FAA report concludes that the high noise zone is unsuitable for residential use and that "land acquisition and relocation is the only alternative".

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Literary Stars Light Up Vermont College of Fine Arts Reading Series

BY KEEMAN WALSH

Tis the season to stack up on fireworks. But the **PROMO** **COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS** in Montpelier will kick off the week of the Fourth with a different kind of spark—a literary one. From June 30 to July 4, several distinguished writers—guests of VCA's MFA in Writing program—will read from recent works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. The readings are free and open to the public.

So what's coming? If you like poetry, you'll want to see National Book Award winner and former New York poet laureate **JAN VALENTE**, whose most recent book is *Break the Glass (Copper Canyon, 2010)*. Of her work, New York Times Book Review critic David Kalbatzian said, "Valente has a gift for tough strangeness, but also a discernible syntax and manner of arranging the lines of...short poems so as to draw us into the dazzle and dexterity of feelings."

Nonfiction lovers should keep an eye out for **BARBARA KOSS**. At the age of 16, he and two of his friends were wrongfully convicted of murder, and Koss was sentenced to death. "They became known as the West Memphis Three, and their controversial case was profiled in the documentary *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills* (and its two sequels) and *West of Memphis* (Echols, who spent nearly 18 years in prison before he was released in 2011, is the author of the New York Times best-selling memoir *Life After Death* (Harcourt, 2011), as well as a self-published memoir, *Almost Home* (2006)).

Headlining the event is novelist **RICARDO BASSO**, whose book *Empire Falls* (Knopf, 2010) won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and was made into an HBO miniseries starring Paul Newman and Ed Harris. Basso is also the author of *Straight Man* (Random House, 1997) and *Nobody's Real* (Random House, 1993). His most recent work, *Elsewhere*, is a memoir that chronicles his relationship with his mother. After an onstage conversation with VCA's president (and fellow novelist) **WILLIAM SUTTER**, Basso will be available for a book signing.

In advance of the event, Seven Days spoke with Basso over the phone from his home in Portland, Maine, about fiction, nonfiction, the writing process and his future plans.



SEVEN DAYS: Though seen primarily as a novelist, you've recently published a memoir. Let's talk about the links between fiction and nonfiction in your short story "The Woman's Child" [published in a collection of the same name, Vintage, 2013]. Sister Ursula is writing a memoir-type piece in a fiction-writing class. She discovers that there's a fine line between fact and fiction, that sometimes we create fiction on our own retelling of the facts. "In writing *Elsewhere*, your first memoir, was there a similarly surprising process of discovery for you?"

RICARDO BASSO: I'm so happy that you picked up on that parallel, because my experience in writing the memoir was not unlike Sister Ursula's. She discovers, in telling the story—and having other people respond to her telling the story—that of course her memory is flawed, and she's forced to confront something about her life that I think she may have known some part of in the back of her mind, but very deep in her own need to believe something else. And I discovered in writing *Elsewhere*, not that there was any great secret, so much as the fact that I just didn't really understand, until writing that book, some aspects of the story of my own life, and the story of my mother's life.

People are always asking me, "Why'd you go all the way to the University of Arizona for college when you could have had a full scholarship to any school in the state of New York?" I always just tell people that I wanted to study archaeology, and the best place to do that is in the

American Southwest. But when I started to sit down to write the story, I realized that that wasn't true. Or it wasn't completely true. That I went to the University of Arizona was something that my mother was at least as responsible for as I was. She'd drop little seeds of information as I would need them, and I realized that as much as I wanted to go to Arizona, she wanted to go there even more, for all different kinds of reasons. I wrote this book not because I knew the story, but because I didn't. Writing this was the first time that there were certain aspects of my own life that finally made sense.

SD: How was the process of discovery itself different when you were writing your memoir than when you're writing fiction?

RB: Well, when you're writing a novel, it's wonderful, because you're learning about fictional characters. And the more you learn about them, the more real they become to you. And yet, they're always full of surprises. And when you feel those surprises—when you get those insights about your characters, something you didn't know about them before—it fills you with joy. It's just wonderful.

Unfortunately you can have that same experience writing a memoir, and you discover something about your own life that you didn't know. The difference is that it's not nearly so joyful. Instead of feeling smart when you figure something out, you feel dumb for not having figured it out before [laughs].

SD: John Irving has said, "How can

you plot a novel if you don't know the ending first?" But you've said "Part of a fiction writer's job is to make it look like he knows exactly what he was doing right from the start," which implies that maybe you don't know where you're going when you begin.

RB: Oh, I almost never know. And that John Irving quote is very funny, and I love it, even though I don't work that way. I wish I could. He does, and I just have a world of admiration for anybody that can write a book that way. But you know, I have no statistics to back this up, but I suspect that there are probably as many people that struggle around in the dark like I do trying to figure out the size and the shape of the moon, as work the way he does.

SD: So you've written books of fiction and nonfiction, and a few screenplays. Can we expect a book of poetry in round things next?

RB: No, no, no. [Laughs.] I think not. I think for all kinds of reasons. Number one, I'd have to figure out how it's done. It's just as much a task as many I have enough trouble with the old tricks, the ones I've supposedly mastered.

SD: Then what are you currently working on?

RB: I'm working on a sequel to my novel *Nobody's Real*, which is called *Everybody's Real*. ☐

I CHAVEZ PARRAS WITH CONVERSATION WITH VCA's president, then continue on Thursday July 2 at 4:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall at the Vermont College of the Arts. Montpelier, VT 05602. For a \$1000 audience purchase and college copies of his new book, *Elsewhere*. Free. VCA.edu

Other VCA Readings:
Visiting novelist/narrator/writer/essayist/ Columbia Professor and Distinguished faculty member Jan Karon reads Monday July 1 7 p.m., in College Hall Chapel.

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Visiting fiction writer John Warner Thursday July 4 7 p.m. in College Hall Chapel.

See scheduled interviews with Richard Basso at VCA.com

Finely Designed Midcentury Furniture Raises Interest at a Vermont Auction House

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY



Shown here with a leather and brass table leg.

As recently as the 1990s, a typical Vermont furniture auction would consist entirely of farmhouse-style antiques, says **ETHAN MERRILL**, one of the state's leading auctioneers.

That's all changed. "It's unusual now to see a straight-up Vermont country sale," Merrill notes. "Now we're seeing people who moved here doing quality stuff they brought with them."

As one striking indicator of this shift, the **DIANE MERRILL & CO.** auction house in Williston will be the site this Saturday of a sale of several pieces of furniture and handbuilt artifacts designed by **Andrew Szoke** (1950-1968). The pieces were assigned to the auctioneers following the death last year of Szoke's son, Thomas, a cabinetmaker who lived in Springfield, Vt.

While hardly a household name, **Andrew Szoke** (pronounced *so-jay*) is well known among collectors of mid-20th century furniture. Merrill says. He is also famous in some circles for the designs he created for *114* magazine, including the version of the cover logo that the greeting card company has been using for the past 45 years.

"He was a true Renaissance man," observes **LEWIS LEONARD**, a book and paper specialist at **Diane Merrill & Co.**, the 77-year-old auction business that bears the name of Szoke's father.

Lending a voice around the crowded auction gallery, Leonard and Ethan Merrill point out a large, round, round-top mounted high on a wall. The art-deco-style embroidery features at its center a woman's head fashioned with flowers. Surrounding it are four decorative panels that depict equally distinctive types of vases, such as a stylized theatrical mask and a model elephant.

Such an elegantly crafted composition seems certain to fetch a sizable sum at auction. But Merrill isn't so sure. "We're really nervous to

find out what prices Szoke will bring," he says. "Some pieces of his have sold for \$30,000, but he's had only minimal exposure to the marketplace."

Nicks and scratches on a set of Szoke wood consoles with set-decay marquetry reliefs might define their market value, Leonard observes. "Midcentury pieces are expected to be in pristine condition,"

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A Therapy Dog Offers Animal Wisdom in Sue Halpern's New Book

BY PAMELA POLSTON

The dust jacket of *SUE HALPERN'S* new book sends mixed messages right off the bat. The title sounds like the setup for a joke:

A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home. But the subtitle isn't funny at all. *Lessons in the Good Life From an Unlikely Teacher* suggests an earnest tutorial on right

living. The photo of the winsome libel-doodle, worn brown eyes staring straight into the camera, signals that this is the titular dog, and presumably the teacher. In other words, expect heartwarming tales of a precocious canine who delivers unconditional love and cuts judgmental humans to ribbons. And what is her tiny white cap, emblazoned with a red cross, meant to convey? This dog is... a nurse?

All these assumptions are sort of true, and sort of not. Pransky the libel-doodle is a therapy dog, as Halpern tells us immediately in the introduction to her book. The ensuing 300 pages chronicle the experiences the Vermont author and her intuitive pooch have over three years of Thursday-morning visits to a

local nursing home. Halpern refers to it as "County." As anyone who has ever read Sue Halpern will expect, *A Dog Walks Into*

a Nursing Home is not a book of the *Chicken Soup* for the Soul ilk. The author of four previous titles—one of them about dementia and memory research—and numerous magazine articles, *Righting* reader Halpern has been a Rhodes scholar and a Guggenheim fellow and is currently a scholar-in-residence at Middlebury College. She is married to author and environmental activist war

rior and a volunteer at a nursing home, but an intellectual, thoughtful and deeply perceptive one.

She thinks, as naturally as breathing, about the causes of behavior, the underpinnings of morality and the meaning of existence. And Halpern is a gifted writer who effortlessly weaves philosophy, theology, psychology and neuroscience into gaily humorous, vividly descriptive storytelling. One moment you're reading about a cute dog, the next, you're contemplating the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers. *A Dog Walks Into*

a Nursing Home is an unexpectedly profound and informative read, even as it cuts to the heart and warms the heart.

Halpern makes a self-described introvert whose social reticence, the quickly realized, is overruled—in fact, irrelevant—when Pransky does her "therapy"

thing.

I understood something about practical wisdom and moral behavior that I hadn't before. Pransky and I stepped into the nursing home, though I was in control of the leash, my dog was going to be my guide here. This was not because she was, as we like to imagine dogs, "uniquely gifted." I had to assume she was making judgments about people and situations of the time that watching Pransky was a revelation. "Pransky is prescriptive," Ariadne wrote.

"For its goal in determining what we must do or not do." What Pransky could do, and I could not, was meet people exactly where they were (shabbily, jolly mean, disoriented, full, barely here, dying), so that a moment's hesitation, and that was a gift.

therapy dog, other than suggesting her pet seemed bored and needed a job. As the author spells out, the rules and tests for service animals are strict, and training her five-page "country" dog to walk with a leash and obey new, restrictive commands is not easy. With immense patience—and a little "cheating"—as Halpern's put, Pransky eventually earns her house.

At the nursing home, the tables are turned, in a manner of speaking. Halpern finds her perceptions, and her introspective personality, challenged. But affection comes naturally to her dog. Pransky intuits which residents want her to climb onto their beds, which ones will simply stroke her head, even, seemingly, which ones need creature comfort as they wait this world.

Halpern observes and comments on these human and canine interactions, for from a detached bystander, she finds herself changed by them, too. "Paw is not a word I would have associated with spending time in a nursing home," she writes. "Depressing, maybe, or unpleasant or sad, but not fun or enjoyable or entertaining." But her time at County proves to be just that. Typically, Halpern bolsters personal experience with scientific data.

(*In a 2010 study on the health benefits of volunteering, 20 percent of the respondents said that volunteering lowered their stress levels; 89 percent reported that it increased their sense of purpose in life.*)

When she and Pransky enter a resident's room for a visit, or are stopped in the hallway so someone can talk to the dog, Halpern feels, as she puts it, like "We were winning a lottery we hadn't known we were playing."

For all its whimsy and funny moments, *A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home* is clear-eyed about the debilitating consequences of aging—memory loss, physical infirmities, dependency, loneliness—and about death. Nor does Halpern avoid commentary on the physical, psychological and economic realities of caring for the elderly. Her descriptions sometimes suggest that she sees in County's residents hard-won and unadorned virtues.



There are no awards for friendship. It is rare that a model is placed on someone for pets and sniffing, or for hanging on for the long haul despite obnoxious, sadistic, grief and even what only There was no award for Lizzie, for twenty years of outstaying in a twisted body and now for the earlier for standing by her. There was no award for Dime, and now for Dime or Dan or any other resident of County or the people who cared for them...

What Halpern finds at the nursing home, too, in compassion, love and devotion is generous supply. She finds that the residents are just like middle-aged people, but a few years older. And she finds that life isn't in its own reward. It's hard to "butt up against mortality" week after week, Halpern suggests, and not think about how not to squander your own years on this earth. Accordingly, as her book's subtitle promises, Halpern explains what makes a good life—for humans and canines.

"Pransky comes her nose to the air, breathes deeply, and charges ahead," she concludes. "Though the moments didn't think so, there is wisdom in that, too." ☐

E *A Dog Walks Into a Nursing Home: Lessons in the Good Life From an Unlikely Teacher* by Sue Halpern. Riverhead Books 302 pages \$26.95

Halpern's new book is on shelves in bookstores on Thursday, July 10, 3 p.m. at Phoenix Books. Burlington line 442-3393 phoenixbooks.net

Auction

he notes. "These are just surface flows, so we'll see."

The mythological and literary characters Stoeckle infused in the console's wood veneers were not looking their best because they hadn't yet been cleaned and polished for Sunday's sale.

With its sharp lines and absence of structural embellishments, the console itself would have a typically modernist look if not for the softening effect that the dark mahogany provides. That's what makes Stoeckle's work stand out, Lottman says. "He incorporated decorative elements into modernist furniture. It's a great combination."

Stoeckle, who immigrated to the United States from Vienna in 1921, developed a style rooted in the Central European traditions that birthed the Bauhaus school. In addition to designing furniture with wood imported from Europe, he worked as a calligrapher and illustrator for advertising agencies and publishers. Stoeckle also dressed windows for Fifth Avenue department stores. In 1948, his lettering on a sign in the window of Bergdorf Goodman caught the eye of a *Hollis* executive, which led to a 10-year consulting job. During that time, Stoeckle conducted master classes for the company's greeting card designers.

Artique dealers from Manhattan will be among the bidders at the auction. They have long since recognized the aesthetic, and monetary value of

stained-wood mid-20th-century furniture, Merrill notes. "Some years ago, it was seen by a lot of people to just used furniture," he says.

Merrill is hoping for a strong turnout by Burlington-area bidders, as well. "There's fairly been a lot of local interest in pieces from that period," reports the grandson of the auction gallery's founder, Nathan Merrill.

The business grew out of Nathan's work for Green Mountain Power, Bilman explains. "He was putting electrical wiring into homes, so he saw a lot of Vermont stuff and got intrigued by what was stored there," the grandson relates. "He eventually went into the antique business in Burlington, and it all developed from there." Merrill says with a wince of his head toward the furniture, paintings, rugs, glassware, to names and assorted trinkets that fill the gallery.

"What we offer has changed a lot since my grandfather's time," says Merrill, a former pitcher in the Boston Red Sox minor league with his brother, Todd, judge collectibles on the reality competition show "Pickled Off" on the History channel. But the reality at the Williston auction house still looks and sounds much as it always has. ☺

I The SEVENTH ANNUAL ARTS AND ANTIQUE AUCTION, which includes Andrew Stoeckle furniture and other items, happens on Saturday June 29 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Ogden Merrill & Co. auction house on 200 Lake Street in Williston. merrillwilliston.com

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from the Seven Days arts blog this week.

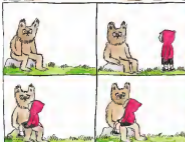
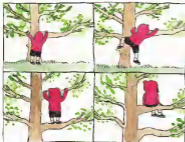
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MELISSA MENDES

produced with an MFA from the Center for Cartoon Studies in 2010. She draws these comic strips every day at her local coffee shop, Marmosa Bunkies. The comic character in these strips, Freddy, is also the subject of her 2010 photo-illustrated graphic novel, *Freddy Brown*. You can buy this book and read more of Melissa's comics at mendesbooks.com.



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Dear Cecil,
I have noticed a high positive correlation between sniff diving and a sore throat: within a few hours I develop throat pain and sometimes lose a full-blown flu. Am I correct in assuming that snuff must be free ingesting *Streptococcus* or *Staphylococcus* bacteria in every session? Is there any way to sanitize the organ in question—say, a bath in lysol or hydrogen peroxide? And how would one go about asking one's partner to do it?

Justin Cohen



Uh, Justin. Lysol? Hydrogen peroxide? I assume these are attempts at humor. Just the same, understand that in the perfect world of the future, you'll have to wear a sign saying, "CALLS IT 'SNUFF DIVING' DO NOT HAVE SEX WITH THIS MAN!"

On to your question. Before we talk prevention, we need to figure out what you're getting from it. (diagnose) over the internet were a good idea, you haven't provided enough detail. Do you have one anal-sex partner or several? Has the alleged high positive correlation been statistically demonstrated, or did you have a sore throat the other day and the flu, and, from that you conclude that something's a'wurl? What?

Whatever the facts are, we run into issues. If you have one partner and she's also monogamous,

you may get what she's got, but then you've got it — you're not going to get it multiple times. If, alternately, you're also frequent one-off sex with partners who are similarly disposed, thereby exposing yourself to every bug natural on earth, I suppose you could get repeated infections marked by sore throats, but probably you'd also exhibit numerous other symptoms you don't mention.

So what follows is, of necessity, speculation. First we need to distinguish infections transmitted while having sex from sexually transmitted infections. You can pick up all sorts of germs from physical contact or proximity, including the *Strep* species that could cause a sore throat. *Strep*, however, are transmitted

primarily through sexual activity. We'll discuss only the latter here.

- Chlamydia can be spread by oral sex and cause tonsillitis. So there's a maybe.
- Meningitis can be spread by oral sex, although the precise route is hazy, and it generally causes headaches, not sore throat. We'll cross this off the list.
- Syphilis, which if untreated can lead to cancer, brain damage and death, is typically spread by direct contact with a syphilitic sore. One imagines you'd notice that. We'll rule syphilis out too.
- Candida infections can be spread from mouth to vagina, but evidently not the other way, and sore throats

aren't a symptom. Another no.

- Bacterial vaginosis, some research is think, can readily be spread by oral sex. The most noticeable symptom is a rotten-fish smell in the vagina of the recipient. The other party presumably carries the responsible bacteria in his or her mouth, but evidently they don't cause sore throat.
- HIV transmission via oral sex is, for the record, rare.
- Other diseases spreadable by oral sex include herpes, scabies, and varicella (chickenpox).
- Herpes often manifests in cold sores in and around the mouth, but not, so far as I know, sore throat.
- Then there's gonorrhea. Like we must learn Transmitted bacterially, gonorrhea is especially amenable to oral sex. Symptoms appear four to six days after contact and can usually include mouth infections. Pellets in the most common route for these infections, which often affect gay men. However, candidiasis is also up there. One study found parties monitoring only to women were four times as likely to contract an oral gonorrhea infection.

New for the really bad part.

Gonorrhea can infect your tonsils as a result of oral sex, and when it does can be tricky to cure. A study of throat patients suffering from gonorrhea found 11 of 13 had recently engaged in oral sex, and half the cases needed several courses of antibiotics.

We're not done yet. Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is commonly associated with genital warts, but also has a more sinister effect — it has become the chief cause of a type of throat cancer that's showing up more often in American men. Between 1988 and 2004, the rate of HPV-related throat cancer increased by 215 percent. Luckily for this reason, after a steady decline in throat cancer rates the 1980s, the trend reversed itself in the 2000s.

Those who have sex performed and sex have more than double the risk of HPV infection. One high-profile case may be actor Michael Douglas, who Moses has stage-IV throat cancer on chemotherapy, although without more information about his use of tobacco and alcohol, such factors can't be ruled out.

Getting back to you, Justin. You probably don't have any of the above, although if that sore throat or other symptoms linger, see a doctor. As for how you might persuade your partner to desist from your genitals, I have no idea, but I'd love to hear you try.

I If there's something you need to get straightened out, Cecil Adams will cover it. E-mail: cecil@straightdope.com. Write Cecil Adams at One Chicago Avenue, 22, 3RD FL, CHICAGO, IL 60604. WWW.STRAIGHTDOPE.COM

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One Jennifer

One of my favorite tunes is "37 Jennifer" by Mike Douglas, with the opening lyric, "I want to school with 37 Jennifer." The song title is based on the fact that between 1970 and 1980, Jennifer was the most popular name bestowed on baby girls in the United States. This is not conjecture, the Social Security Administration keeps impeccable records. As they say, you can look it up.

One of these Jennifer's was sitting alongside me as I drove my taxi, her four friends squealed happily together in the back. This particular Jennifer had blue eyes and a blind pageboy and was cute as a button. She was also in the process of decoupling a droopy kishish, the Middle-Eastern base of my existence. I reached across her and extracted a couple of aspirins from the glove compartment.

"Could you please use these and make a mess?" I requested, handing her the aspirins. We were driving north on Route 7 en route to Webster Road.

She stared at her eyes at me, a gesture that — if I had to speculate — probably resolved most of her conflicts with people. "You gotta tidy," she explained with a musical giggle.

"How gross was that concert?" one of the girls shouted from the back.

"World you see?" I asked. Normally, I'd know who had been playing in town, but during this week of the yearly Burlington Discovery Jazz Festival, I could've been any number of acts.

"Burlington very," Jennifer perked, her mouth stuffed with kishish. Laughing, she swallowed and said, "I mean Remington Lay, the reggae guy?"

"I think I heard of him," I said, stretching the truth in a lame effort to come across slightly happier than I was. I couldn't I was tickled to be conversing with a pretty girl I'm an old dude at this point, but if I live to a hundred, I doubt that impulse will ever fade.

I said, "Hey, what was your first-over concert?"

"Hmmm, I guess rock," Jennifer replied. "Ooh, I remember now — it was Richard Marx at Memorial Auditorium. I think I was 15."

"Richard Marx?" I said, chuckling. "He

I thought about it for a moment and said, "My God — you're right! I've had those two guys hopelessly confused. And it was the hair!"

Jennifer reached over and held a piece of tomato to my mouth. "Eat it," she said, giggling convulsively. She had had enough of the Eric Combs/Richard Marx discussion, and apparently it was now time for me to eat.

"Jennifer?" I said, "Thank you, but I don't want my tomato."

"Eat it," she persisted, holding the tomato in place.

like an obstinate toddler in a high chair. "I won't eat it!"

Jennifer withdrew the tomato, but a moment later she threw it at me! It struck my neck and fell down my shirt. The girls in the back gasped at a group.

"Jennifer, that wasn't very nice," I said, trying to shake the food particle out of my shirt while I drove. I should have been cooled. I mean, my dignity! But I just couldn't get mad at this girl, and it wasn't merely, or even mostly, about her good looks. Though her behavior was totally inappropriate, even bratty, there was something sweet about her spirit. If someone was going to toss a tomato chunk at me, I was glad it was her.

Oh my God! the sudden, utterly changing her tone as the reality of her actions dawned on her. "I'm so sorry!"

Hey, it's OK! I said.

"No, I really mean it — I'm so, so sorry!"

"Well, I'm gonna forgive you if you promise me something."

"What's that?" she asked.

"That you'll never throw food at your cabbie again."

Jennifer placed her hand on her heart and pledged, "I will never throw food at another cabbie."

"Well, I forgive you," I said with a grin. Jennifer leaned over and kissed me on the cheek, which made the whole incident more than worth it. ☺

I JUST COULDN'T GET MAD AT THIS GIRL, AND IT WASN'T MERELY, OR EVEN MOSTLY, ABOUT HER GOOD LOOKS.

was kind of chunky, wasn't he? But before he went solo, the guy was actually on a puny cool band — the Raspberries. They had a couple of big hits."

"You mean about that, dude?" one of the backseat girls interjected. "I think you're messing him up with somebody else. Cause I was a big Richard Marx fan, and I don't remember anything about the Raspberries. Let me look it up."

Checking her cell phone, she laughed and said, "You must be thinking of Eric Combs. He was the lead guy in the Raspberries, but I could see why you made that mistake, because I'm checking maps and the two of them look so much alike. They both had that big poufy hair."

"Err," one of her friends admonished her, "what is, like, wrong with you? Stop harassing the cabbie."

"I'm not harassing him," she insisted.

"He wants it. I know you want it. Am I right?"

Oddly, it wasn't again by Jennifer's accent. Perhaps this proves how much you can get away with when you're extremely cute. I was more amused than anything else. There was something so ridiculous about the scenario: a bouncy, pretty girl, probably buzzed, was replying to four-armed her cabbie. If nothing else, she was a first for me, and I'd thought I'd seen it all after 30 years behind the tax wheel.

"No?" I said jokingly, shaking my head.

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Critters on Camera 2013

Best of the Beasts pet photo contest winners

BY PAMELA FOLSTON AND CYPRESS HARRIS

"Dogs are adorable" may be our most-cited category, but this competition is about more than puppy love, far from. Once Seven Days staffers selected finalists from the 250 entries to our pet photo contest, more than 1500 readers voted, via Facebook and Survey Monkey. It can be hard to narrow down the stacks of awe-inspiring, fuzzy, furry or feathered buddies, and sometimes their human companions are left wondering just to be in the winners' circle. Here could you not push yours deliriously to protect the precious? Or postulate a pet owner "He's so cute!" No doubt.

The animals are probably more interested in kittens than in contests, not to mention better humored than their humans. Either way, there's no question that these pets are adored.

All of them are special, but only one could be "best" in each category, and you can see and read about the winners here. Thanks to Play Dog Day at Burlington, each will receive a \$50 gift certificate. Critics, we predict more stars in your future! ☺



Orin



Clyde and Lucy

BEST PALS

WINNERS: CLYDE AND LUCY

Brother and sister Clyde and Lucy are "best buddies" according to their owner Nicole Zornike of Milton. They play together all the time and love to cuddle. The cats — just several inches shy of 10, and also human siblings, Clyde the bigger of the two — often knead Lucy around their main joints. And Zornike says she had to stand at the curb during emergencies because Clyde sometimes tries to push Lucy out of the way to get more food. But Lucy has her tricks, too. She'll sneak up on Clyde standing around a corner. To get him on his back? Zornike says with a laugh, Zornike declares that she often looks for Lucy in her search attacks. "It's why the right" she points out.

Owner tip: *Don't let Alice* dogs owned by Michael Huet of Proctor

OFF THE CHAIN

WINNER: KNOX

When people see Greg Anderson walking his dog, Knox around Burlington, their faces light up. People have even been known to say "My dog was going bad until I saw this little pup." Anderson replies, Knox is a blue pied French bulldog — the most coloring — and is just 4 and half months old. Anderson plans on showing him to be in line with dog — his previous dog was certified — so that Knox can "meet people have better dogs." He explains, "Not to worry." This pup gets to enjoy his meat too. Knox often goes out on his own back — he even has his own life jacket.

Owner tip: *Snappe* a dog owned by Reginald Lane of Colchester

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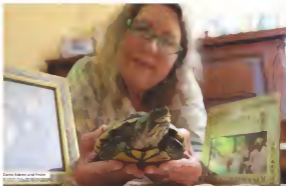
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Donna Anderson and Pedro
Barnett Anderson

Shell Game

A writer reflects on keeping a less common — and long-lived — pet

BY CARRIE ASKRON

I take an early-morning visit to my arties and tomato plants, with a Pop-Tart stick for sipping and a wind-out peanut butter jar, and return with my catch — a shiny mass of slugs. They will be breakfast for my turtle, Pedro.

I bring the jar into my living room, where Pedro resides in a 55-gallon aquarium. As soon as he spots me, he begins paddling vigorously, his body nearly vertical, head extended out of the water. His beady eyes — which look somehow comically obstructive set against his yellow-and-brown head markings — watch me intently. I open the jar and, using the stick, push two unsuspecting slugs off the underside of the lid and into Pedro's tank.

"Ooo, two, sluga for you!" I sing, as he dives to snatch the sinking morsels. Down the hatch!

"Three, four!" I continue, "here come some more." I shove another half dozen of the writhing garden pests out of the jar and into the water. Pedro gobbles them all within seconds.

I twist the lid back on the jar and put it in the fridge. Kaffoon for a snack later.

Pedro is a pet-friendly, cooler, freshwater turtle (*Chelonia peninsularis*).

His yellow-and-brown geometrica are less colorful than those of the popular red-eared sliders that most pet stores sell. But, according to *Philippe de Vosjoly's* *The General Care and Maintenance of Reptiles, Amphibians and Other Popular Terraria*, Pedro has about the same physical attributes and living requirements as other water turtles do. Full grown, he stretches almost a foot long from head to tail, and he has a huge appetite.

While some may keep turtles in pots, other people have an appetite for them. As the number of online reptiles indicates,

turtle meat is popular food and an soup. And that's how I came to adopt Pedro. Not for making soup — I used him from that fate. You might call him a rescue turtle.

Already fully grown in 1997, Pedro got lucky. He was among a truckload of illegal turtles that police, misinterpreted as exotic from Mexico to a Boston restaurant. The displaced exotic aquatics were turned out to science teachers throughout New England. I was teaching fifth-grade science back then, and voilà!

But the school's principal — whom I suspect in retrospect of being chelonophobic — decided that he didn't want a large turtle in my classroom after the day he heard me scream. That was the day the students begged me to let Pedro run loose in the

FULL GROWN, PEDRO STRETCHES ALMOST A FOOT LONG FROM HEAD TO TAIL TIP, AND HE HAS A HUGE APPETITE.

the ANIMAL ISSUE



room during our silent-reading period, the energy wandering about on land occasionally and is surprisingly quick on its stubby legs. To contain him, we closed the classroom door.

Everything was fine until one little girl begged us to go to the pencil sharpener. She walked down the aisle between the desks, oblivious to Pedro's wandering into her path. I screamed, "Look out!" and she stopped back just in time to avoid scraping him. The sympathetic administrator insisted I take my turtles home.

Yes, turtles. Along with Pedro, I had adopted Speedy. Our first summer together, I put both turtles in a kiddie pool in my backyard to bask in real sunlight and heat, rather than the UVB ultraviolet light and bulbs-generated heat above their tank. Unfortunately, a neighborhood dog carried Speedy away before I could cover the pool with chicken wire. The next day,

I found his wing, yellow-and-green mottled underneath in my front yard.

So Pedro spends his days inside his tank, or in the bathroom when I change out the tank water, so I must do a few times a year (it's a more frequent requirement for the less hardy pet-store turtles). Pedro's tank water must be chlorine free. Well water is good, but city water has to sit in an open container overnight before it can be added to the tank. Pedro's tank water is chlorine controlled with a submersible tank heater set above 68 degrees. The ultraviolet light hangs over the length of the tank, and a heat lamp shines on his basking platform. These enable him to produce vitamin D and keep his body temperature high enough to digest his food.

Controlling algae growth in the aquarium is the job of my algae-eating plecostomus tropical fish, *Pirina One*, whom I also acquired in 1987. He's about an inch long and resembles a miniature porcupine catfish. *Pirina One* used to have a partner, *Pelita Two*, who was the unfortunate fish of death by anemone — the custodian at my school accidentally threw him out with his tank water.

Cleaning and refilling the aquarium is the most labor-intensive aspect of caring for Pedro, other than that, he is the easiest pet I've ever had. And he's more social than most people might imagine. He greets me every morning by paddling and splashing. Like my Catahoula leopard dog, Pedro bogs and scoops many scraps thrown his way.

According to Dr. Vagstad, turtles thrive on a varied, omnivorous diet of veggies, fruits, bugs and meat bits, as well as commercial floating fish pellets. Pedro's bugs come from a yard that has never known pesticides or herbicides. He also enjoys strawberries and romaine lettuce cores. I limit Pedro's feedings, though, experts caution that obesity in turtles, as in humans, is a health concern. How can you tell if a turtle is fat? By checking for bulging around the groin or navel areas.

I watch Pedro and *Pelita One* now; the turtle is sunny and picks along the bottom of the tank, over dirt and granite rocks where the fish is sucking on algae. Pedro looks and behaves the same today as he did 36 years ago. I have read that, with proper care, turtles have a lifespan of up to 80 years.

I am 59. I may have to write Pedro into my will. ☺

— C.A.

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MAGNETIC RECORDING OF THE HUMAN ECG

Melanie January of Burlington was scheduled to admit it. Her life was a train wreck before the next Winter. Five years ago, January then 33, suffered from depression, severe anxiety, agoraphobia and suicidal ideations. She was unemployed, smoked three packs of cigarettes a day, was severely overweight and took 26 pills a day to cope. Mostly, she stayed home alone and wouldn't leave her "dumpy apartment" for fear of having an anxiety attack in public, which would render her confined, frightened and helpless. As a result, she narrowed outside contacts to only those with whom she

"I was much from 14 years of periparturient medications," she recalls. "I had no hope, nothing. Everything I wanted I'd lost."

Today January is slim, tanned and physically active. She owns her own home and car, has a full-time job as a perisupport specialist at Burlington's Wal-Mart Co-op, is off disability and waits for the Burlington waterfront to watch the sun set. She also smokes, has friends, is active in the community and travels around the country by alone, which some terrified her.

Jonavery acknowledges that she still has "mental health challenges" to deal with on a daily basis. But she's been drug-free for more than a year and a half, and she says she's in the best mental and physical shape of her life.

And she covers it all in a delicate, gray and white, bushy caillie.

about her 6-year-old canine companion, who's snoozing under the table. "And he continues to snore day."

Winston is January's psychiatric service dog. Like guide dogs for the blind and seizure dogs for epileptics, Winston is trained to pick up on subtle cues from his handler, and then alert her that something is wrong.

While a working eye dog starts its career about physical hazards in her path, psychiatric service dogs are trained to recognize the signs of negative mood ratings, such as panic attacks, hyperventilation and "dissociation," or an emotional detachment from one's surroundings. Whether the dog he's "in ground" January by bringing her back to a calm, unagitated state.

How? Simply by being a dog, she says. He'll lick her face, paw at her leg, lie on her lap or nudge her hand to encourage her to stroke his coat until the stress drains. Sometimes, he'll even pull Jeremy outside as she can regain her emotional bearings, catch her breath and relax.

Psychiatric service dogs are relatively new in Vermont. The state has no certification or formal training program for them, and only a handful of Vermonters are known to use them. Nationwide, however, the numbers have taken off in the last

Divide In fact, January is active with an online group called Psychiatric Service Dog Portables and now leads a local support group for other psychiatric-service-dog owners.

Jennery's mental health issues began in childhood. Growing up in Westfield, Mass., she suffered from severe anxiety. At 16, Jennery was raped at work, a trauma she says she didn't discuss with anyone until years later. At 19 she suffered a severe panic attack on a bus, for which her father scolded her. Later that night, she tried to drown herself in a bathtub.

Soon thereafter, January was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and began the first of many psychiatric medications. She had planned to attend Yale University but her mental illness forced her to abandon those plans.

From there, the saga, she drifted from one relationship to another and developed a gambling habit and a cutting problem.

January had grown up around animals and interacted with pets in her human relationships. However, when those love affairs ended, so did her relationship with the animals. It wasn't until January moved to Vermont and began treatment with Dr. Joe Lench, a psychiatrist at Rushmore Hospital in Keene, that she considered getting her own dog.

About six years ago, Loach wrote January a letter of accommodation to allow her to live in a part housing with a companion animal. At the time, Loach didn't know anything about psychiatric service dogs. He just thought a dog might be therapeutic for his sister.

January's case manager told her it was her "job" to walk Winston every day, which she admits felt like an insurmountable task.

"I was so depressed, I didn't even know how to play with a dog," January recalls. Since the bad almost no money for dog toys, her case manager suggested she take an old sack, lie on the floor and play tag-all-war with Winkles. Soon those interactions began teaching January in ways that requires and reinforces bad not.

Winson had not yet been trained as a psychiatric service animal; Jossery would eventually do all that on her own through

WINSTON
SAVED MY LIFE,
AND HE
CONTINUES
TO EVERY DAY

WOLANIE JAMES

the ANIMAL ISSUE



online programs. But even before his formal training, Winston seemed to know instinctively how to comfort his human companion. One day, while talking on the phone, January began having a panic attack and hyperventilating. Winston jumped on her lap, rolled on his back and caressed the rub his belly. January began to laugh, which effectively short-circuited the panic attack. He took her for a walk.

"Winston became this vessel of safety that would escort me out of the house," she says. Soon their walks got longer and longer, and as January's physical health improved, her need for psychiatric drugs waned. Within 18 months, January was off all psychiatric meds.

Today, Lasek is impressed with what the dog has done for January.

"It's not just companionship; it's not just a friend, and it's not just a warm body," he says. "This was the one thing that worked when nothing else did."

How can a dog reach his partner in ways other humans cannot?

Lasek isn't an animal behaviorist, but he suggests that because dogs evolved with humans over thousands of years, they're adept at detecting subtle cues that human beings aren't, especially nonverbal distress signs. Plus, they're by their owner's side almost all the time.

"You can't have a person doing this for you 24 hours a day," Lasek adds. "Dogs can be there when therapists and helpers cannot be."

When medications no longer do the trick, Winston David, 66, of Birmingham was diagnosed years ago with schizophrenia disorder and bipolar disorder. She had been taking antipsychotics and antidepressants for more than three decades and had a lifelong alcohol problem.

About four years ago, the antipsychotic drug David had been taking for 15 years was discontinued. The substitute made her feel all bad had bad side effects. By the fall of 2011, she says, her psychiatrist had exhausted all medical options. Instead, he suggested she try a psychiatric service dog.

David, who'd grown up with male black labs, began placing shelters all over New England, looking for one. In the spring of 2012, she got a call from the Franklin County Humane Society, which had a female white German shepherd the staff thought would be perfect for her.

David was skeptical — until she met

Maja. The 19-month-old dog had been severely abused, was missing patches of fur and weighed just 44 pounds (she's now 80 pounds).

David adopted Maja and began working with a local trainer to encourage and reinforce the skills the dog needed to become a service animal. Evidently those instincts were already there. David, when agoraphobic, experienced a panic attack one day in a public library. Maja instantly led her handler to the elevator and outside until David could catch her breath and calm down. The dog was only 21 months old at the time.

Today, Maja guides David up and down stairs, and lets David lean on her if she gets disoriented or unsteady on her feet.

How is her life different with Maja as a

"My life has totally changed," David says. "I'm safer over a year now, and the dog goes to every [AA] meeting with me. I have a lot of friends. And I don't take any medications anymore... It's just given me a life I've never known since I was very young."

Although psychiatric service dogs are considered service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act, January says that some businesses and public accommodations don't immediately recognize someone with an "invisible" disability, and occasionally ask her for documentation.

By law, people with psychiatric service dogs aren't required to have their dogs vouched for or show proof of a disability. As January puts it, "You don't have to show your driver's license every time you drive through a traffic light." Nevertheless, Winston usually wears his vest whenever he and January are in public.

That's especially true when the boards are up, as in the fall she took to add a psychiatric service dog, nervousness in Berkeley, Calif. January says she and others in her group have encountered problems with some airlines, which now require medical documentation and 48 hours' prior notice of the travel plans — something not required for other types of service dogs.

If accommodations can be one hurdle for people with mental disabilities who seek a service animal, another is the financial burden. Training, vet bills and the upkeep of a psychiatric service dog can easily David says she's already spent more than \$10,000 on Maja, while January has spent at least as much on Winston — none of which, she adds, is covered by insurance or disability payments. Nor are there charitable groups, as far as they will cover such expenses.

Despite such obstacles, January says she'd spend her last penny to keep Winston. As she puts it, "I wouldn't be where I'm at in my life without her." ☺

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Pets Versus Landlords

Vermonters love their pets, but finding animal-friendly housing is no walk in the park

BY JACQUE E. DAY

When Kyle and Gail Previti decided in April 2012 to move from St. Cloud, Minn., to central Vermont, they headed plane tickets to visit the area, scope out neighborhoods and make a decision on the best living place for themselves and their Boston terriers, Sophie and Josie. They did not anticipate the circumstances that would essentially make that decision for them.

In advance of the trip, they began checking rental listings. "The first thing I learned is that there's not a lot online," Gail Previti says. "So we were a little worried about that, but we thought, Vermont's small, and maybe they just don't do things online."

the ANIMAL ISSUE



During their May visit, the Previtis met with property managers and learned "the pet thing was really an issue," Gail says. "Most apartment managers said outright, no pets."

Their initial worry soon turned into anxiety. Kyle had accepted a full-time teaching position at Norwich University in August, and Gail had picked up adjunct work at the school. At one time on web-slog friendly options appearing, the couple grew increasingly desperate. "We kind of had the conversation about what we'd do if we couldn't find a place that would take our dogs," Gail says.

While the Previtis' clock was ticking, Ken Simon was making plans to return to Vermont from Alaska, where she had worked as a dog trainer. "I knew I wanted to move back to the area," says the Johnson State College graduate, "so I started looking for work and looking for housing at the same time."

Simon received a job offer from the Central Vermont Humane Society with a start date of May 1. But she still hadn't found a place that would take her, her daughter, her sister, brother, and an in-laws-in-law German Shepherd named Bo. Many rental inquiries were simply unanswered.



THE BEST WAY TO GO INTO IT IS, JUST LIKE YOU WOULD FOR YOURSELF, HAVE REFERENCES AND HAVE A PLAN.
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ANNE WARD

Both families finally made it to Vermont. The Previtis signed a lease for a Macomber house eight months "after we found one place that took our dogs, we snapped it up really quickly," Gail says.

Simon made use of her Vermont connections. A friend with whom she had shared house keys of a rental in Calais

"She was a wonderful reference for me," Simon says. "And that was, I think, the only reason I was able to find a place. I got lucky that it was hard, and it still took an extra month."

That extra month was difficult not only for Simon but for the employer awaiting her arrival.

"We had to wait. It had an impact on us here," says CVHS operations director Anne Ward. "For a dog owner with a certified assistance dog to have trouble [with renting] is really discouraging for regular people with regular dogs."

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Pet Ownership & Demographics Research Group (PODRG) ranks Vermont No. 1 in the nation for pet ownership, with 79.8 percent of all Green Mountain households having at least one pet. Housing is difficult to find in Vermont even without animals. With them, it can be a battle.

Ward says it's impossible to tell, from CVHS data, how many newcomers to the state are forced to give up their pets before moving there. But the organization does keep statistics on the number of owner-surrendered (OS) animals brought to the central Vermont facility. In 2012, it received 31 OS dogs and 49 OS cats due to landlord issues. The 2013 numbers so far for landlord-related OSs are 33 cats and six dogs.

Ward is no stranger to the complexities of this issue, both as a mixer with pets and as a landlord. For five years, she opened a portion of her Montpelier home to tenants, some with pets. She has since stopped.

"It was really nice to have someone that didn't end up costing me a lot in the end, or devolving the apartment in the long term," she says.

Herbert and Yana Heath, owners of Health Apartment Rentals in Barre, manage 60 rental units in central Vermont. They have a no-pets policy.

Herbert Heath tells the story of a building the couple purchased on Perry Street that had been inhabited by cats. After they tore up the hardwood floors and the subflooring, the cat smell remained. "We found that, even though that house had been vacant for a while, that cat urine was still wet down under the rafters," he says. The damages: \$18,000.

"If you have to change the rugs in a small apartment, it can be up to \$10,000," Heath adds. "And you won't know that the pet has made a mess of your apartment until after the tenant has left."

Herbert Heath has been in the apartment business for 40 years and is president of the Central Vermont Landlords Association. He says he likes cats and dogs. He just can't afford to have them in

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FRIDAY, JULY 5: THE MOHO COLLECTIVE

RED SQUARE

The Bark Eternal

Williston funeral home offers services for the furry, feathered and finned

BY ALICE LEVITT

the
ANIMAL
ISSUE



When Ignez Williston met her new neighbor, Stacy Rousseau, she didn't expect to need Rousseau's business services anytime soon. Williston, owner of the Misty House & Boutique in South Burlington, was in Rousseau's client pool — pet owners — but her English pointer, Opie, was still young and vital. Rousseau, plus end-of-life services for pets at her new Williston-based business, Timeless Paws.

Then, on a recent Sunday, Opie died suddenly of a heart attack. Rousseau sped down from her home in Milton to collect the dog's body and prepare it for cremation. "My kids said they were devastated," Williston remembers. "[Rousseau] was so kind and so good to us. She never once made us feel bad about it being a Sunday."

"This was my dream," Rousseau says, surveying the funeral home that she opened earlier this year. Timeless Paws isn't just a last stop for beloved pets. Rousseau offers services ranging from funeral pre-planning to kudos for pet health. The animal lover says she serves to do all she can to nurture the bond between owners and pets, on this plane and the next.

In the weeks that followed Opie's death, Rousseau continued to help the Willistons memorialize their dog. After a few days, his ashes returned home in a locally crafted pine box. Williston's daughter got a lock of hair with the pooch's hair. A division was made in Opie's name to a local pet charity.

While Rousseau's services reflect her love of animals, they also make good business sense. Deaths alleviate services are a growing segment of the pet-care industry — which, in a whole, brought in \$12.87 billion in 2011. Death-care industry blog *PetFuneral.com* cited this figure as evidence that one way to maximize the ailing funeral business is to extend its services to far beyond humans.

The pet memorial life is still too new to boast many hard statistics of its own. But, according to a 2012 Bloomberg Businessweek article titled "They're Never So Close: A Better Time to Be a Dead Pet," there are about 790 pet aftercare facilities in the United States so far. Timeless Paws is one of two businesses in Vermont that offer funeral services and body disposal, as well as grief counseling and a slew of memorial products. The other, White Rose Pet Memorial Services, is in North Ferrisburgh.

Despite the rising popularity of the industry, it has a stigma to overcome. When

people hear "pet funeral services," they often think of the dusty casket Evelyn Waugh wrote *The Loved One*, or of the 1945 film adaptation. But Timeless Paws has no Gothic Shambler Room or eternal flames, either "perpetual" or "standard," and Rousseau is no "Blessed Beheaded."

Though she does indeed operate a business (caskets start at \$95, cremation services depend on the weight of the pet), Rousseau creates uncommon warmth from the moment she greets guests at Timeless Paws.

At the entrance of the bright, airy space, she displays memorial work by Vermont artists, including beaded bracelets woven from the hair of deceased homes, hand-

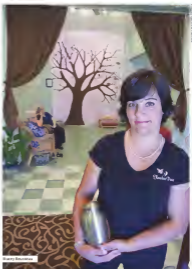
**ROUSSEAU WORKS
TO MAKE TIMELESS PAWS
A VIBRANT PLACE
WITH A FOCUS ON LIFE
RATHER THAN DEATH.**

glass pendants filled with bits of cremains, and painted or stained-glass portraits of deceased animals. Or living ones.

Rousseau wants to make Timeless Paws a vibrant place with a focus on life rather than death. For instance, clients can memorialize a pet by purchasing a leaf on the wall-size *Timeless Memorial Tree*. The fees, starting at \$45, are donated in full to one of a rotating roster of animal charities. The current recipient, *Enzo's Foundation for Canine Cancer*, helps owners pay for their pet's costly treatments.

Rousseau's two fully, white-limbed rooms aren't the only living dogs that prance through the door. A longtime Reiki practitioner, Rousseau treats both animals and people, and bodywork, including acupressure and aromatherapy, is a large segment of her business. Many of her clients are non-pet owners when they're being treated; instead she opened Timeless Paws.

Are animal/bodywork clients accessible, leaving their lovely pet to a funeral home? "Some people have thought, 'Oh, I don't want to go because of that, and they are just absolutely surprised that here



it's about the joy of the relationship, not the saying 'good-bye'." Rousseau says. "That's really important to me. We're here to nurture every aspect of the relationship." But she does offer no-paws services for those who prefer not to be by urns and caskets as the way to their rubidium.

Rousseau's involvement in the death aftercare industry inspired her to pick up bodywork as the first place. The idea popped when she was working at Island Me Animal Pet Services, the Isle La Motte crematorium that Timeless Paws now uses. "I cried every pickup, but at the end of the day,

here I am, a mom with two kids," Rousseau recalls. She made a way to decompress. "Then I found strange work and started using it on myself. I would bless the pet, and it started making me feel better."

As Rousseau's interest in healing grew, her desire to help people deal with the loss of pet didn't dim, and she found herself combining the two.

At the crematorium, Rousseau focused on the deceased pets. At Timeless Paws, the people left behind are just as important. In her bodywork, she now offers one-on-one grief-counseling sessions to person or



by phone. She's also working to schedule pet-loss support-group meetings.

Though Rousseau isn't a psychologist, she says self-help classes, certifications in Theriobehavior and Access Consciousness, and on-the-job experience have taught her all the tools to know to be an active, helpful listener with advice for grieving clients. Williamson can attest to that.

"We were walking zombies for a week," she recalls of her family's reaction to Opus's passing. "Some people don't like pets, but when they are part of your family, [Rousseau] understands. It just says 'caring' all over, the whole experience," Williamson adds. "Her soul, her being is just wonderful."

Dogs and cats aren't the only ones who get a royal send-off at Timeless Pets. Rousseau says she's cremated a goldfish and a parrotfish pup among other unconventional companions.

Cremations can be arranged for the day an animal dies, potentially right after euthanasia, which Rousseau can help schedule at home or at a vet's office. Otherwise, a tracking service allows the family to know precisely when their loved one will return to them in the urn of their choice. Rousseau says the ashes of a fish, hamster or tiny bird could fit into one of the memorial necklaces she offers.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, Timeless Pets is working on offering cremation for larger animals such as horses, but the option isn't yet available. When Rousseau gives a call that a horse has expired, she brings a draped truck to collect the remains. From there, the body is composted on a bed of sawdust. Depending on the process, it takes between nine and 12 months for the horse to return to the

earth. Rousseau brings the compost to the family with a memorial tree planted in it, the species of which is chosen to suit the animal's personality.

Since Rousseau hasn't found any pet cemeteries in Vermont, other animals that aren't cremated must be interred at home, at least for now. She says the horse's soon much demand for body-positive services, such as taxidermy and freeze-drying, but she has made contacts with professionals in those areas should the need arise.

Memorial services take place in the quiet chapel next to the bodywork room. The funeral director opens up the whole space to the grieving family, including a spacious kitchen where she helps them prepare coffee, tea or other snacks to demand. The \$265 "Memorial Celebration of Life" includes a memorial slide show, the burning of a pillar candle, a personalized leaf on the memorial tree and a luxury release, among other services at the family's choice.

Luxuries — buying lanterns to light tea candles — may be picturesque, but Rousseau mostly got an even more poetic idea for commemorating pet companions: memorial butterfly releases. Petworks displays one amazing option on her ride: "We can do anything," she says with a gleam in her eye.

Perhaps Waugh's nod to propel a pet's remains into orbit isn't so far-fetched after all. ☐

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Diaper Duty

Chicken shit happens — and Pampered Poultry has it covered

BY MEGAN JAMES



Mountain wears big sunglasses

Something was wrong with Mountain. Rachel Mountain's 3-year-old hen was having trouble laying her egg. Mountain seemed it might be stuck.

Mountain, who teaches medical ultrasound at an Ohio college, began raising chickens — for both their eggs and pet potential — in her family's small backyard coop last year. "They're spunky rascals," she says in a recent phone conversation.

Mountain took Mountain to the vet, who did a couple of X-rays. "You could see the egg inside," she says. "That was pretty cool."

They could also see a hernia, it appeared like the hen's condition was leaking out. A specialist told Mountain the condition was rare, and that she should put Mountain on a special diet and keep her separated from the rest of the flock.

So Mountain brought Mountain inside for good. But chickens aren't like cats, you can't train them to use a litter box. And they won't, like dogs, let you know when they need to go. Chickens poop all the time. Luckily for Mountain, there is such a thing as a chicken diaper. Really.

"I know they existed," Mountain recalls, "but I saw diapers at the online community for poultry enthusiasts, Backyard Chickens. But Mountain didn't want to settle for the mass-produced diapers for sale on the website. My Pet Chicken, she would settle for 'labeled ones,' she says. Then she found Pampered Poultry. Julie Baker's chicken-diaper operation based in Clearmont, NH.

Bakers aren't just for chickens with hernias. Baker (who in turn told Seven Days about Mountain) says darling little

handmade, reusable diapers for traveling chickens. 5-11 show chickens and pet chickens. She also offers "dresses" just for fun, and "saddles" which aren't as outrageous as they sound. When roosters mate, they often peck aggressively at a hen's back, a cape-like flap of fabric, or saddle, protects her plumage.

On a recent visit to Baker's home in Clearmont, where she raises 30 chickens, several Nigerian dwarf goats and other assorted poultry, we encounter an unusual animal tableau. A domestic hen named Abigail roosts around the farmhouse living room in a pink diaper while Charlotte, a big, black cat, eyes her from the doorway.

On a table by the window, a life-size, paper-mâché chicken mannequin wears member diaper. Baker's 15-year-old daughter Bridget, created the mannequin, which has more of a show piece to show and photograph the latest Pampered Poultry styles. New Baker doesn't have to catch a chicken every time she wants to show off her product.

Priced at \$2.50 each, the diapers have the front part of all clothes and are simple to design. 6-inch pouch is attached to velcro fasteners, which are held together with a cute little bow.

"Our chicken diapers are not just for the felines-owned hen," Baker writes on the Pampered Poultry website. "They offer you and your home protection against the inevitable." But they are chic: diapers are available in such color schemes as "black velvet," "infant turquoise" and "purple meadow."

"To demonstrate how the diaper works, Baker changes little Abigail's. The pouch, lined with a waterproof sports material, has been positioned snugly under her tail feathers with the help of three all-metal suspenders. Baker attaches the straps and looks inside the pouch, where she finds one little turd. "If a chicken is healthy, usually the poop is pretty solid, and they don't pee," she explains. Baker lines the diaper with a paper towel so it's easy to change and reuse.

"Chickens poop a lot," she says, so it's best to change the diaper every hour. But most pet chickens aren't wearing diapers

all the time, just when they're watching TV with their human friends, taking long car rides or visiting a classroom for show-and-tell.

Baker has dabbled in crafting diapers for other birds, too. A woman in Minnesota ordered a custom diaper for her parrot.

"That thing was huge," Baker recalls — and she's hoping to expand her line to include duck struts.

Born old Baker, a farmer, short-sale negotiator and home-schooling mom, and up with a quirky business plan's now selling about 100 chicken diapers a week.

"I love to sew," she says, recalling that she always wanted to sew her preschooler's daughter, but Bridget, Baker says, "is the most it was all person ever."

When her daughter was 5, Baker says, Bridget got "really into chickens," showing them at fairs and bringing them inside the house. It occurred to Baker that she could solve the poop problem and indulge her husband's taste for all clothes in one fell swoop — and the Pampered Poultry chicken diaper was born.

The idea quickly gained traction. In its 2012 best-of list, *New Hampshire Magazine* named Baker's diapers and saddles Best Poultry Costume. Backyard Chickens caught wind of her business. Then Melissa Pardo of *Radio* picked up the story, and pretty soon, Baker says, wholesale orders started coming in.

The chickens are only part of the story; sewing the diapers is another. Two years ago, Baker set up the Women of Puerto Plata Sewing Cooperative in the Dominican Republic. "I knew I could just call up a leader in the textile industry and get them made," she says. But Baker cringes at the thought of mass production. "I don't want to be part of the whole fast-fashion problem," she says.

Baker had been volunteering in the DR for a few years before establishing the co-op. "I love the people, I love the music, I love the island," she says. So she borrowed space and donated several sewing machines. The co-op currently employs six local women.

Baker admits she was somewhat embarrassed at first to tell the Dominican



Julie Baker

women what they were making. "We just kept saying 'put clothes,'" she recalls. Chickens are everywhere in the DR, Baker says, but the idea of outfitting them would strike many locals as, well, crazy. "I mean, the kids don't have diapers," Baker says. "They're gonna put diapers on their chickens!"

Baker laughs it off. "I'm a graduate of Mount Saint Mary's College," she says. "I come from a long history of jira-in-the-diy ideas."

This one seems to be working so far. Baker says she's not surprised that so many people have responded well to her chicken diapers. "You do get really attached to your chickens," she says. "They all have different personalities. Your inclination is to pamper them."

At her farm, the Obachens have spunked Baker's stylish diapers, she likes to chill on the couch, take baths, eat cheese snacks and hang in her crate, according to Mountain. Recently Mountain has taken to a check-shaped dog tag in the evenings. Mountain brings her outside to "soak" with the other hens, and then back inside for bed.

"She could die at any time," Mountain says. "In the meantime, we want to spoil her." ☺

SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Notches on the Table

STONE RESIDENT OPENS TWO NEW RESTAURANTS
Following a multimillion-dollar renovation,

TEMPLETON RESIST & SPA in Stone will reopen its doors on June 28. Guest rooms and the lobby overlooking Mt. Mansfield have been converted for a rustic-chic vibe. But the resort's former restaurant, **Namua's** and **Stone Club Kitchen**, have been replaced by new eateries: **FLANDEL** and **THE ROOST**.

Karen and Chris Stevens says it was "no-brainer" for management to expand dining at the resort, where restaurants

are up and more on bottles, **Stimski** says he hopes the **Roost** "will grow into our adult-tye restaurant."

The menu reflects that refinement with a sense of the playful. It opens with a lengthy small-plates section like "Nibbles Five Rings." Drinks include french-toast-fanner's-chaise party; with wine-sauce cream, fried macarons with gingerbread, served in a cashew sauce, and tempura's exposed fries with lime salt, togarashi, and smoked miso-dredge.

Other sections on the extensive bill of fare include meat and cheese boards, sandwiches (some filled with chicken thighs or roasted porkchop).

including roll-and-fritters served as either a starter or side, and the crispy oyster BLT appetizer. Entrees include Misty Knoll Farms chicken with sweet-potato gratin, and the Flannel burger, topped with local cheddar, crispy pork belly, an egg and House-Topper-glazed onions.

—A.L.

Double the Burn

WICKED WINGS TO OPEN SECOND LOCATION IN VERMONT
Never underestimate the power of a plate of chicken wings. It's enough to both nations — or maybe just mini-nations. Such is the case of **WICKED WINGS**,



had been exceeding capacity whenever the heat was full. Now, even in busy times, **Stimski** hopes to be able to serve every guest. **The Roost**, located at the all-new lobby area at the front of the building, is significantly larger than that risk-free and includes a 70-seat patio with a fire pit and bocce area.

Inside, the **Roost** boasts a 10-foot, shalimar-enclosed shuffleboard table on which guests can both eat and play. With 10 beers

and more dishes such as spicy-corn omelet soup with dried scallions or smoked fish bones with lemongrass.

Flannel now fills the space formerly occupied by **Namua's**. Though it's the resort's more family-friendly option, the upscale destination does not back for sophistication. The casual dinner menu offers a mix of local ingredients and comfort food's from further afield. Once in point, the selection of seafood,

which will build on the success of its Johnson location with a second spot in **Roost**.

By September 1, owners **DAVID HALL** and **CHRIS AND KAREN STEVENS** will bring their wings down from **Lamond's Country** to 158 Pearl Street, where **Upper Crust** used to be. "I grew up in Burlington, and I'm just happy to be back in Chittenden County," **Gailin Scordill** says, explaining the expansion.

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in Vermont. I foresee a war in the near future — for the affections of all lovers of thin, crisp, flaky-style fries. For the moment, I am leading. I couldn't resist the finely chopped mayonnaise that coated the sugary potatoes, along with a liberal helping of salt.

Since it was Tuesday morning, I tried an equally enticing brunch special: perfectly eggs Benedict. My first bite consisted of nothing but seared spinach on grilled bread and seasoning that saturated as its own. But the bites kept getting better, as I found chunks of beautifully rendered pork belly between poached eggs and a saucy sauce. One of the two eggs was slightly overcooked, so that not all the yolk ran, but the other was the Platonic ideal of a poached egg. The side of dill pickles potatoes would have seemed great at most other breakfast spots, but compared to my fries, they lacked personality.

Another side dish offered in its spades. Grilled corn satiated just a bit of juicy crunch under its char. Shredded in cream and cheese, the three mini-wads made for a creamy eat, but the combination of Mexican spices and a squeeze of lime made them irresistible. I put with these had been four, shared by two, the dish ended up as an insatiable desire.

After an abortive attempt to try the bar's weekly deal, Two Tuesday, I decided to get to Male early for dinner. At five-thirty, it was easy to score a seat. By eight, the bar was so busy I had trouble finding my way to the bathroom. There are two reasons here. (1) If you don't want to wait, arrive early. (2) A meal at Male takes a long time. Our three-course dinner lasted close to two and a half hours. One-course brunch was just as long, too.

That's not a complaint. Male Bar's food reflects deliberate care, and eating in a hurry may not be ideal, but as choose another destination on the block (there's one) for very refreshing that time of year.

The dinner crowd, when it arrived, was surprisingly diverse. I expected the tattooed bachelors and ragged beer goths, but I also saw more than one older couple dining not far from a set of guys in Red Sox jerseys who were making into charitable bowls. I don't know how the more sedate diners felt about the daily server Japan soccer game on the TV above the bar.

I followed the Sox Bar lead, choosing a pairing of spicy pork belly coffee and won Trapp Farmstead's Mt. Ale. These

I wish there were an affordable way to try several breweries' options at once, but, at \$7 per pint and \$6 per cheese, I stuck to the choices that sounded most exciting.

More mad cheese arrived on a wooden board, looking primed for a close-up as a mug of beer, along with a bowl of buttery griddled bread. Each corner of the board was dotted with a different condiment. Klops of pink pickled onions, grainy mustard and current mustard were all nice additions, but a sweet,

on the other. The grilled, egg-washed, housemade bun looked beautiful but only contributed further to the acidity, despite a thick slush of ketchup.

The disappointing plate had me saving grace: a pile of thinly sliced bread-and-butter pickles, made from Vermont's grandmother's secret recipe. In Vermont's pickle-crazy food climate, sweet pickles remain underappreciated, and you're actually to find any better than those at Male.

I always say that foodtalk, with its many accents and delicate flavor, is the perfect medium between fish and chicken. It's a great choice, then, when you can't decide between the two. Despite it in her honor, and you should have the staff deserve are made of.

At Male Bar, the sticky jacket on the sandwiches' mustard suggests did approach deliciousness, but the cooking's promise left it soggy as I sat on my plate. It was a bummer to see a potentially great dish lose its glow so quickly. A little moisture didn't stop me from enjoying it, though. I capped the fish and accompanying fries in the wonderfully balanced smoked-bean-and-caper mayo and enjoyed the lightly dressed sprouts on the side, covered with pickled onions.

Big lemon flavor also appeared in the 16 oz corn side of steamed spaghetti. The greens came with this slush of garlic, cubes of bouncy pancetta and chickpeas for a bowl of bold tones.

Manent has what some might consider a heavy hand with acid on all his dishes. I like the strong flavors it affords the food, yet every dish is just a few grams away from overkill. The spinach, though delicious, had me reaching for ranch after ranch of ranch. Thankfully, it was provided in a bottle for the table to share.

Only one dessert was listed on the chalkboard menu that night. With a shower of tiny purple flowers and a sprig of mint on top, the cream caramel looked like it should have been photographed and contemplated rather than eaten.

However, I was cautious enough to break the crust of the egg custard. Both the caramel on top and the sauce in which the dessert sat tasted like a very sophisticated version of Red Hot candy. It was a fine-tuning-quality sweet with a wisp of fan.

Despite a few minutes that were like seeing Male Bar in a whole. It's the place for well-made — sometimes ingenious — food that doesn't kill itself too as casually. And, of course, for beer. ☺



smoky-rubbed compous was my favorite. It paired especially well with the mild, milky Camembert-style fromage, one of my current Vermont favorites.

The melting pork belly was so well rendered it seemed almost lost, yet there was just enough fat for a crisp top. I didn't taste any particular spice, but the cube of meat was sufficiently delicious to disappear for too soon. My dining partner was so fond of the bread that we ended up making a milk, with which our server provided it as quickly and as no extra cost.

The wait was longer for entrées, and, unfortunately, it wasn't as impressed with the burger as I had been with the steak fries. I've topped meat from Rochester's North Hollow Farm before, but this party had a slightly "off" tone, which may have been partly due to overcooking.

The burger was very nearly as tall as it was wide. Despite my request for medium rare, the huge party was unevenly cooked — well done on one side and medium-well

SIDEdishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

(OVER THE OF YELLOW SIGN COMMERCIAL broke the deal.)

At first, the 38-seat location will just serve takeout. Its pub food-fusion menu will be

really develop a kitchen the way I want today," Rosenthal says of his plans as a pop-up chef at each Stone exterior as well as COFFEE and the BARBECUE.

to wash down those rich flavors with a bevy of German and local beers, and some German and Italian wines, including a few "tiny bottles," Rosenthal says,

Cathy Lefebvre



identified to that of the Johnson location: burgers, falafel wraps, pork ribs, apps such as jalapeño poppers and, of course, wings — including the signature fancy smoked and grilled Wick'd Wings.

Eventually, the two may sell beer and wine, though whether the bar scene at Stone will ever reach the booming proportions of the Johnson spot remains to be seen. "We'll keep it pretty simple," Collins Rosenthal says.



Rosenthal will soon be placing orders from a semi-open kitchen inside the cafe, which will have six tables indoors and three outdoors. At lunch, he plans to offer seven or eight of his signature entrees, such as one stuffed with shrimp tasso. At dinner time, out will come the fondue pots. Rosenthal will fill the menu with Swiss cheese spread with kirsch and spices — plus racks, bread-and-butter and apples such as red snapper. Beyond or better, gourmet panache entrees at over are served up.

Guests will be able

such as Antenne della Volpelleria.

SWISS FONDUE AND CHIMES BY HEINZ will be open Tuesdays through Sundays for lunch and dinner.

— C M

Just off the Mountain Road in Stone, CAJON LARNA began a new service on June 14. Executive chef Rosenthal, former of London, Cañon Larina, now creates seven dishes Tuesday through Saturday from 5 to 9 p.m., in addition to breakfast and lunch served seven days a week. Small plates include rib tata tartare to crostini-ginger broth and special short ribs with kale and green peas. Executive pastry chef FREDERICK ROSENBERG provides desserts, such as two chocolate cakes with passion fruit mousse.

— B L

Suppering in Stowe

ONE MORE TO OPEN A CAFE, COFFEE LARNA LAUNCHES DINNER MENU. July moved eventually takes a rest. So it is with the new business, the coffee-sipping Stone chef, who will open his own cafe at 48 South Main Street in the village by mid-July. "I've not been able to

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Beyond Ben & Jerry's

Kids and grown-ups critique Vermont's newest indie ice creams

BY CORIN HIRSCH

Nothing inveterate is hot summer day like an ice cream cone, and, in Vermont, there are lots of appealing options. With dairy farms from border to border, an upswing in organic creameries and an obsession with creaminess — not to mention two patron saints named Ben and Jerry — the sweet treat is in abundance.

In fact, each year brings a new crop of craft-brick, independent ice cream stands churning out flavors from the mountains to the seashore. With the debut of at least six new brands in the last two years, we thought it was time to undertake an ice cream taste test. Hey, someone had to do it.

We brought in some pint-size pint toons to help. Six ice cream critics under the age of 7 trooped dutifully into the office with a parent who works at Seven Days or Fish VT.

We purchased pints of six newish Vermont ice cream brands, Kingdom Creamery of Vermont, Birchgrove Baking, Sugar's Honor, the Chocolate Muffin, Lulu and Craig's Premium Ice Cream. We constructed our panel to judge the taste and accuracy of each brand's vanilla flavor (where possible) and one other signature flavor and then jet down their notes or tell their parent what they thought.

Picture 12 pieces of ice cream, seven kids, 45 minutes, one carry room and one kitchen filled with each spoonful. The kids freely offered their candid assessments — ranging from "hmmmmm" to "it's cold!" — not only one each down along the way.

The link was delicately but fairly broken, though say Sugar's Honor warmed up the guinea-pig-for-one sampling for second vanilla. "I like ice cream!" she declared.



Ice cream taste test in Seven Days' eatery.

KINGDOM CREAMERY OF VERMONT

3471 Route 16
East Haverhill 478-8700
kingdomcreameryvermont.com

Established: 2012

Price: \$5.79 per pint (prices may vary)
Number of flavors: Five ice creams, one frozen yogurt

What we tasted: Vanilla, Majestic Maple

The scoop: Though it's made up in the Northeast Kingdom, this ice cream is probably the best distributed of our contenders. Kingdom Creamery puts out as few as Homemade, green) stores, co-ops and even the Best Diner Billy Mac. The Michael family owns the business and the source: milk from the cows on their Class A Den Farm in Haverhill.

Verdict: Vanilla: The grown-up testers were told in their criticism. Also found this vanilla too, lacking in flavor and "not worth my calories." Steve called it "hey" and noted that there were "two specks of

vanilla or anything else." As for the kids, Noah found the vanilla "tasty" while siblings Graham and Jay both called it "great and creamy." It was try's second favorite overall.

Majestic Maple: Steve called it "creaky and suspicious." While Alice thought it was "very subtle," Myles protested, "I don't like this kind!" But also disagreed: "I like it really good cause of its gager taste," she observed, revealing her penchant for detecting secondary flavors — a feature we're tester perhaps? Graham, a devotee of all things maple, chose this flavor as his favorite of the day. "I like it!" he explained.

Verdict: Kingdom Creamery didn't win the adults' four group, but its straightforward flavors appealed to the majority of our little ones.

BIRCHGROVE BAKING

279 Elm Street, Montpelier 223-0200
birchgrovebaking.com

Established: 2011
Price: \$6 per pint

Number of flavors: Six or five at any given time

What we tasted: Vanilla, Cookies and Cream

The scoop: Ben and Lisa and Julia Belding run this cozy capital-city cafe, where most summer days they suggest their breads and cookies, homemade by charming son, pints of ice cream. It comes in flavors that range from vanilla to Vietnamese coffee. Their ice-cream sandwiches is a local favorite, thick paninis-fruit ice cream sandwich between oatmeal cookies.

Verdict: Carolyn observed that it "tastes very homemade," with a "summer-but-funky" vanilla flavor. Alice found the sweetness and texture of the vanilla "just right." Jay thought the vanilla was "creamy," while Noah crowned, "the best kind." Noah noted: "Steve was worried in her assessment, smelling chocolate from another flavor on her tasting sheet."

THE TASTERS

Seven Days/Vt VT designer Brooke Bousquet and son Noah, 4

ESL VT newspaper editor Carolyn Lee

Seven Days/Vt VT food columnist Margaret

Shaw-Henderson and daughter Sarah, 2

Seven Days Food writer Alice Leach

Five children 3-10 ages of Seven Days

editorial manager Rebecca Hirschman

Seven Days/Vt VT staff writer Kim Hirsch

and daughter Myles, 3. (Myles also brought

along his son, 1-year-old Finn, who provided

primal screams of excitement.)

Critiques and by Peter's Third 4 children of

48th VT capital's school and Seven Days

columnist publisher Cathy Brewer



Cookies and Cream: "Homemade cookies and a smooth base," said Alice, who doesn't normally wear it to the flavor. Though a lifetime of consuming chunky Ben & Jerry's Cream had led Steve "to expect the occasional half an Oreo in these cookies," he was nevertheless sweet on this flavor. "The cookie crumbs in this ice cream are delicious," he said. Ivy seemed pleased by the "vanilla chocolate taste," while Ella simply said "good." Nobody complained about this one.

Verdict: With its van of pulverized cookies crumbs and balanced, creamy vanilla, the Cookies and Cream was a darling of all ages. An all-around solid showing.

SCOUT'S HONOR

40 Bridge Street, Waterfall; 585-7155
sweetspotvt.com

Established: 2012

Price: \$2.50 per pint; \$3.50 for a small cone
Number of flavors: changes daily, set to eight; flavors are usually available in the scoop shop

What we tasted: Vanilla, Chocolate

The scoop: Series Guitano and Johnny Vella turn out small batches of the ice cream at their Sweet Spot cafe in Waterfall, using Montanara Farms milk and a French-style custard base made from their own eggs. Fruit and herbs from their farm are repurposed in some of the flavors, which can lean toward the eclectic — Tea and Biscuits and Sweet Tea Mint were recently on offer. You can also find their creations at Red Hen Bakery & Cafe in Middlesex.

Vanilla: The vanilla was a bit with presence, instantly becoming Brook's favorite version of this flavor. "There's something about it," she gushed. Steve called it "intense." They knocked it out of the park? "I don't think so," he said. "I like the banana," he told Graham, who found it "absolutely great." Ivy "cremified" made it one of her sister Ivy's favorites, too.

Chocolate: Alice called this one "the essence of chocolate." A higher cocoa ratio than any other chocolate Ivy had, with a silky, smooth texture. "Noah said, 'smoo-yum-yum,'" while Minsu cut through the morn. "It's cold," she said. Ivy really loved this chocolate, admitting it was "super chocolatey, not too sweet."

Verdict: There's a rivalry between these two seemingly simple flavors. The "intense" vanilla was a great favorite, while the dark, dark chocolate was a few hearts but also overwhelmed a palate or two.

THE CHUBBY MUFFIN

87 Oak Street, Burlington; 248-0000
thechubbymuffin.com

Established: 2011

Price: \$5 per pint; \$3.25 for a small cone
Number of flavors: nine or 10, depending on the day

What we tasted: Vanilla, Strawberry-Basil

The scoop: The narygoing North End cafe began turning out the cold stuff two years ago, and does it out by the scoop or the pint. Next on their roster, according to co-owner Lucy Adley, are a "killer cone," made with, well, fresh meat.

Vanilla: Graham detected a slightly sour flavor and wondered aloud if it was banana. But, she agreed. "I like it." Alice called it "texture." "Slightly gamier." Ella found the texture of the vanilla ice cream "fatty," while it made Graham "think of muffins," possibly because he read the name on the label. Both Noah and his mom loved the vanilla flavor.

Strawberry-Basil: Alice praised the "beautiful flavor" which she thought "compared pasta." Carolyn agreed: "I don't know if I'm eating pasta or an ice cream, but I like it," she said, though she found its brightness less off putting. Steve called the flavor "a little too minty" with an "old-servy-Basil thing." Sander summed it up thus: "More strawberries, less basil." "It's good, a little," said Noah with a shrug. Both kids and adults observed that this ice cream melted faster than the others.

Verdict: This ice cream's soft texture appealed to younger tongues but put off a few older palates. Though the vanilla was pleasing enough, it didn't elicit as much passion as the Strawberry-Basil — everyone had something to say, good or bad, about this one.

LU.LU!

11 Main Street, Brattleboro; 777-9923
lukvt.com

Established: 2012

Price: \$13 per pint

Number of flavors: There are 66 flavors in Lu.Lu's roster, but only a few are offered at one time.

What we tasted: Vanilla Bean, Magic Mint

The scoop: It isn't hard to spot Lu.Lu at Brattleboro's main drag. A huge metal ice cream cone hangs outside the front door. Inside, owner Martha Mink uses milk from Mountaintop Farms, local eggs from her family's inn at Baldwin Creek and herbs and fruit from a number of local producers.

Vanilla Bean: Carolyn found it "wintery" and forgettable. Alice thought the vanilla had a "vanilla hyper" taste that was almost "too intense." But Steve discerned "there's not a date, thing, wrong with this one." Graham had high praise for the vanilla, calling it "perfect." The loved the "little dots of chocolate" in the vanilla bean (which her mother pointed out were actually vanilla flecks). This one was Mary's overall favorite.

Magic Mint: Carolyn revealed that this reminded her of "eating Girl Scout. This Mint is ice cream flavor." Alice thought it possessed "one of the best flavor profiles overall." Graham insisted the chocolate Magic Mint "just perfect" after his first bite. For Minsu, it was overkill. "Can't eat more ice cream," she announced.

Verdict: This bean-spiced vanilla was a kid's favorite but was a bit too paged out for the grown-ups in the group. Magic Mint, on the other hand, had it going on.

CRAIG'S PREMIUM ICE CREAM

458 Glade Orchard Lane, Shelburne
735-2164; craigspremiumicecream.com

Established: 2011

Price: \$6 per pint

Number of flavors: 13 standard, plus 12 "made to order" flavors

What we tasted: Sea Salt Caramel, Mint Chocolate Chip

The scoop: Fans of Craig Alst-Peterson's ice cream can see their orders and leave their points delivered — or pick them up from the window at his Shelburne home on Sunday afternoons. Neither vanilla nor chocolate are in Alst-Peterson's crown. Think: Cranberry Cacao, Thyme Citrusmint and Gingerbread.

Sea Salt Caramel: Ben announced over the "soft" sea-salt caramel. "Love it!" gushed Brooke. Alice wanted more flavor, calling it "creaky texture," he said, "awesome." Ella simply smiled.

Mint Chocolate Chip: This was Carolyn's hands down favorite. "Like eating mint straight from the garden." Alice called it "just-picked flavor." "Superbitter," though she didn't care for the chocolate chips. Steve found it to have "the most natural flavor of all of them." Ella, oddly, found the Mint Chocolate Chip "too bitter." Minsu disagreed, saying it tasted "like mint." But Graham and Ivy gave it a thumbs up. "Crazy," they declared in unison.

Verdict: Craig's makes a mean ice cream for grown-ups, and even though some flavors are unusual the kids might not complain. D



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RADICAL SOUND

JUN. 28 | MUSIC

Eric Clapton calls blues guitarist Sonny Landreth "probably the most underestimated musician on the planet, and also probably one of the most advanced." Known for his unorthodox slide-guitar playing, the Louisiana-based singer-songwriter has perfected techniques such as "ghost notes" and "wild hammering"—simultaneously sliding and fretting the guitar while tapping, slapping and picking the strings. This signature style figures prominently on his all-instrumental 2012 release, *Eleventh Journey*. Reflective of his multi-genre influences, this performer's 11th album marks his most ambitious effort to date, featuring edgy compositions ranging from the up-tempo "Gala Thibe" to the quiet ballad "Bowie New Girl."

SONNY LANDRETH

Friday, June 28, 8 p.m., at Apollo Hall
Performing Arts Center, 10 West Main St.
Newport, 504-645-5454, www.apollohall.org

JUN. 27 | MUSIC

Best of Both Worlds

What happens when a Harvard University-educated citizen-scientist, who also happens to be a first-generation Ethiopian American, founds a musical group? Debo Band. With a sound the *Akron Globe* describes as "if George Clinton had come from Ethiopia instead of outer space," the groundbreaking 11-member ensemble infuses Ethiopian pop music with elements of Eastern European brass and American soul and funk. With their self-titled debut landing a spot on NPR's *Music 360* *Favorite Albums of 2012*, these charismatic performers fronted by singer Bruck DeWige have proven to audiences and critics alike that their infectious sound has staying power.

DEBO BAND

Thursday, June 27, 8 p.m., at Dartmouth Green in Hanover, N.H. Free. Info: 603-649-6822.
www.dartmouth.edu/debo





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calendar

WEDNESDAY

health & fitness

CRYSTAL MEDITATION Marie Dutch leads a weekly experiential class on Buddhist meditation. Wednesdays 5:30-7 p.m. \$7 suggested donation. Info: 238-7908

ALPINE O Resistance training, power, plyometrics, endurance and best define this high-intensity group fitness program. Starts 6:30 a.m. at Burlington. Info in 502 area 576-8343

kids

CHICK FOR KIDS The Chicken of Standards is growing! 3 through 5 years. Join us for the Big Dig & game. Battered Ladybug Beans. 3-4 p.m. Free. Info: 576-5368

GO INTO READING: INS INTO MUSIC: SINGING AROUND THE WORLD Ann Strong's singing camp is coming to a close. Over 100 students have participated in her incredible international travels. August 10-12. Youth Public Library. 10-12 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

GO INTO READING: INS INTO PLANTING Planting for 4 to 6 years. Join us for a day of planting. 10-12 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

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WEDNESDAY 10-12 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

music

BRISTOL TOWNHALL Sing 'n' learn sessions for the weekly concert series that celebrates a community bond. 10-12 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

CITY HALL PARK LUNCHEON PERFORMANCE Local musicians perform the lunch hour. 12-1 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

GREEN MOUNTAIN CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL: OFF THE CHARTS The Maine Chamber Music Association presents a series of chamber music performances. 7-9 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

LEWIS FRANKO & THE PROVEN EIGHT GIRLS The Maine Chamber Music Association presents a series of chamber music performances. 7-9 p.m. Free. Info: 426-3381

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arts. 10 a.m.-January 18th/January 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

TAMAR GILDER & PABLO HERNANDEZ The award-winning author and chef joins The University of Mount Washington and local sponsors to discuss local sustainable food systems. South Burnett Sherburne Farms 7 p.m. Free Info: 855-5231

thunder

THUNDERING RAIN The Western Playhouse presents July Roberts' award-winning tamed-to-life-of-a-raging-drawn-woman play of self-discovery. Western Playhouse 7:30 p.m. \$38-39 Info: 824-5018

TODDLER ON THE ROOF A heartwarming story about the St. Michaels Playhouse production of a little boy's climb about a small village in Brazil. Frege the Undermountain plays to push children on to a stage. The St. Michaels Playhouse 5:30-6:30 p.m. Info: 354-2191

NET SCIENCE SERIES Sunday-Monday 5:00pm-7:00pm. Mountain and Clouds. Heterotopia's story in a futuristic production of the story of a mountain about the town of New England. Arts Center 10 a.m. Info: 363-3281

seaside

ARTISTS AT THE ALDRICH Art Center's Artists' young artists with the 1st May Day Fine Arts 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Info: 363-3281

WILSON'S WINTER WORKSHOP MEETING Members meet and discuss the project and goals of the winter workshop. Wilson's Winter Workshop 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

CONTEMPORARY MEETING Reading and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

HEARST CENTER The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

LINDA MASON The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

SUMMER POOL SALE The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

THU.27

architecture

ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE Sustainable landscape design and architecture. The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

OPF

INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

business

ART COUNCIL The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

business

VENUE VENTURE NETWORK MEETING The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

community

ADIRONDACK COUNTRY CHAMBER SOLAR The author's author's and discussion of the book "The Power of Language" by the author. The St. Michaels Playhouse 7 p.m. Free Info: 363-3281

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conferences

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calendar

THU 12/14/12

NEW NORTH END FARMERS MARKET Eat and stroll through an array of offerings. From sweet fruits to home grown peas. 100 Lodge Burlington. 9-6. 300 p.m. Free. Info: 848-8022. newnorthendfarmersmarket.com

KARL HEARN BACKWARD KANSAS Acclaimed filmmaker and food chef Denise Ruyter teaches homecooking to expert cooks using recipes – including a Middle Western burger – and covered, infused coffee wine sauce. Healthy Living Museum and Café, South Burlington. 5-9:30 p.m. \$20. greenliving.org Info: 560-2569

WATERFURY FARMERS MARKET Gardeners and their customers swap eggs, a turkey and eat local ingredients at a weekly outdoor marketplace. Rusty Peckham Market, Waterbury. 9-7 p.m. Info: 226-4331. waterburyfarmersmarket.com

WILD & WILDED PRESENTATION Drawing on their 15th anniversary of the Vermont Historical Society and the New England Audubon Society, the Vermont Historical Society and the New England Audubon Society will present a presentation of the Vermont Historical Society and the New England Audubon Society.

WILLIAMSBY LAKE FARMERS & ARTISAN MARKET Participants by local musicians, jam producers, arts, gourmet jewelry, wood classes and more. 1400 Main St. Burlington. 10-11 p.m. Info: 322-8352

golfing

OPEN HOLE GOLF Players of varying experience learn put, stroke skills to win in this popular game. Valley Public Library. Monday. 9-10:15 p.m. Free. Info: 452-3370

health & fitness

PERLA: THE SAPHIRA SWIRL WORKOUT 12-15 p.m. Local live music and great food. Great place when performing basic skills with wood on topics of the season. North End Studio A, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

TRINITY BODY MASSAGE Jan Hosen of Trinity Yoga and Body Massage. This class includes a variety of massage, reflexology, and other techniques. Trinity Yoga and Body Massage. 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

THE USE OF RELAXATION 8-9:30 p.m. Local live music and great food. Great place when performing basic skills with wood on topics of the season. North End Studio A, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

Kids

AFTER-SCHOOL CAMERA CLUB Children learn to use a camera and learn about photography. 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

ALBUQUERQUE PLAYERS 10-11 p.m. Local live music and great food. Great place when performing basic skills with wood on topics of the season. North End Studio A, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

CHATTERBOXES Children learn to use a camera and learn about photography. 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

DIG INTO READING: PUPPET PERFORMANCE AND PUPPET MAKING 10-11 p.m. Local live music and great food. Great place when performing basic skills with wood on topics of the season. North End Studio A, Burlington. 7-9 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

DIG INTO READING: CRAFT SERIES Reading and craft projects. 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

LIBRARY CAMERA ACTION 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

MONTESSORI INFANT/TODDLER PLAYGROUP 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

MUSIC WITH DEREK 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

MUSIC WITH MR. CHES 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

SUMMER STORY TIME 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

SHAWN BAG CONCERT SERIES 10-11 p.m. \$10. Info: 322-8352

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PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

color-glass style gives a varied performance, including songs that have moved America far and wide. **Admission:** January 30a cash only. **Spokane Post-Performance:** RVL/Cover Story-Mountain News. 8 p.m. \$30-\$45. **Info:** 509-463-7436.

performances

WAGGERS' MUSIC IN THE WORKPLACE HOLIDAY GUMP: Bring your team about 45-60 min. or do a full-on 1-hr. midday rep. standards. **Entry:** \$100. **Location:** 14 Middlebury St. m. 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

COMMUNITY PARTNERS OBLI CLASICO: Friendly troupe of folk a song for various groups at 251 Kucharski for Cornish School. **Location:** 251 Kucharski. **Admission:** Mid and Cornish and Northampton Counseling & Support Services. **Chapman County Club:** 500 North St. 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

PEOPLE'S UNITED BANK: 100 Vermont State St. **Music:** Mountain Music. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

theater

THEATER IN THE WOODS: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

MAJOR CLASS: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF DANCE: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

PRINCE OF DARKNESS: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

FURNHAM LIBRARY SUMMER BOOK SALE: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

SAT.29

performances

SECOND NATURE HOME FARM TOUR: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BARREL: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

WESTON HALLING TOUR: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL PULLEY MASTER CLASS: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

ISLAND MEXICAN MEXICANA: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

LES BALLETS TIMOTHY AND HENRY CARLO: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL PULLEY MASTER CLASS: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

performances

BURLINGTON INTERMEDIATE HALLING TOUR: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

SPRINGFIELD HALLING TOUR: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

DR. REAGAN'S TOUR OF THE WORLD: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

ELIXIR PHOTO-HISTORY BOOK: 100 N. 100 St. 7:30 p.m. **Admission:** 10:30 p.m. **Info:** promoter info 680-4888 ext. 332.

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SUNDAY July 7, 7:00 PM CRAFTSBURY COMMON

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Sandy Litch (banjo)
Mosh Chese (mandolin)
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James Kerr (drums)

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calendar

(SAT 25 & 26)

THE PHARMACY COLLECTIVE See THU 27 11
am-7 pm

fairs & festivals

THE FISCHELY GARDENING See FRI 28 10:30 am-1
pm

VERMONT GUEST FESTIVAL See FRI 28 12-4 pm
6-9 pm

film

ADULT UP FOR MY HEALTH Shot over the
course of three years, Jacob Halberg's intimate
documentary follows his family's winter
vacation in the Adirondacks during the recording
of his country album *Get Farmer*. First
screening: Burlington 7 pm, 8:30 pm. Free
preceptor info: 603-660-0000

CARAMEL Daniel Samuels captures the
Sunshine State's bohemian and big-screen
performance of George Jones' 1968 album
about his wife, Loretta. First screening: Irondale
Spring Peak Performing Arts Center Stage
Theater: 8:30 pm. \$10. Info: 705-4534

DESPERATE MEN & ADVANCE SCHEDULING At
Pleasant, a tiny and beautiful town find
five women to the women's liberation
movement. First screening: Irondale Spring
Peak Performing Arts Center Stage
Theater: 8:30 pm. \$10. Info: 705-4534

THEME: OCEAN LIVE INTERVIEW "A Journey of
the Life of a Fish" is the story of a fisherman's
life. First screening: Irondale Spring Peak
Performing Arts Center Stage Theater: 8:30 pm. \$10. Info: 705-4534

THE NO FILM FILM FESTIVAL Cinemas screen
selections from a nationwide contest in which
filmmakers had one day to shoot a digital
film based on popular film reviews.
First screening: Burlington 8:30 pm. \$10. Info: 603-660-0000

food & drink

BURLINGTON FARMERS MARKET More than
100 vendors provide an extensive produce
selection, artisan wares and prepared foods.
Burlington City Hall Park, 8:30 am-12 pm. Free
info: 802-572-1512 burlingtonfarmersmarket.org

CAVENDISH FARMERS MARKET Imports and
cheeses, pastured farm produce, baked goods
and locally made jams and jellies. 80 State
Street, Montpelier 9 am-11 pm. Free. Info:
802-239-3939

WINDSOR FARMERS MARKET See FRI 28
9 am-12:30 pm

NORTHWEST FARMERS MARKET Stock up on
local produce, garden plants, seasonal goods
and handmade gifts. Taylor Park, St. Albans 9
am-2 pm. Free. Info: 802-524-0040

RAVILAND COUNTRY FARMERS MARKET
Gourmet vendors find it all: gourmet herbs and
veggies, fresh cut flowers, sweet treats, and
artisanal wares and more. Depot Park,
Burlington 9 am-2 pm. Free. Info: 705-4534

WATERFALL FARMERS MARKET Local and
seasonal products, including organic meat,
baking ingredients, seasonal produce, prepared
foods and artisanal goods. Middlebury Green
Marketplace 9 am-1 pm. Free. Info: 405-6667

health & fitness

RET CAMP Falls got a new twist: about two
miles and about 100 miles of the state
park. Burlington: 8:30 am-12 pm. Free. Info:
705-4534-0000

SLIP & FLY See FRI 28 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Burlington 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Info: 603-660-0000

SUNDAY SPORTS HEALTH RESTORATION A
unique live event with live performance
and music. Includes: live performance, live
music, live music, live music, live music, live
music. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

kids

BOOK PUGS 1-10 years olds 8 through 10
and a story with a pup. When was a theme
story. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

JAMIN GUN Vermont's own award-winning
children's book author and illustrator reads
and discusses books. A story of the Vermont
State Fair. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

ROCKIN' PLAT TIME WITH HAPPAH Rockin'
up to the 1960s with a pop, rock and roll
theme. Includes: music, dance and interactive
activities. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

SATURDAY STORY TIME: HARKEN STORYTIME
A story of the Vermont State Fair. Burlington
11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info: 705-4534-0000

VERMONT The story of the Vermont State
Fair. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

volunteer

VERMONT GAY SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES
DAY TRIP Live musicals and live music
at the Vermont State Fair. Burlington 11:30
am-12:30 pm. Info: 705-4534-0000

VERMONT GAY SOCIAL ALTERNATIVES
Live musicals and live music at the Vermont
State Fair. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

AL RAIN & RAIN The Vermont State Fair
is a place where you can find everything you
need. Burlington 11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info:
705-4534-0000

ONE The Vermont State Fair is a place where
you can find everything you need. Burlington
11:30 am-12:30 pm. Info: 705-4534-0000

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**HAVING A SUMMER YARD SALE?
WE'LL TAKE MANY OF THE LEFTOVERS.**

WFS



Berre

Third graders watch soccer kick action before a special fireworks show **July 4, 6:30 p.m., Thunder Road Speedway** info: 244-6963, thunderroad@speedbait.com

Barton

Agricultural amusements—from a tractor pull to games on horseback—look off the fireworks. A grand parade at 3 p.m. leads from downtown to the Fairgrounds. Fireworks follow at dusk. **July 4, 5 a.m.-dusk, Orleans County Fairgrounds** info: 325-3533, orleanscountyfair.net

Bristol

The small town celebrates the Fourth in a big way with live music, games, crafts and a bright lights show ending Wednesday evening with a bang. The great Fireball Outfitter Race, a dirt road race and a themed parade extend the fun to Thursday. **July 3, 6 p.m.-dusk, and July 4, 7:30 a.m., various downtown locations** info: 423-5421, bristolvt.com

Burlington

Live bands and fun-filled activities—including an air show, obstacle course and bounce house—set the scene for spectacular fireworks over Lake Champlain. **July 3, 3 p.m.-dusk; fireworks at 9:30 p.m., various waterfront locations** info: 584-3123, anydayburlington.com

Rock the Deck Celebration: Queen City Salesfest, a benefit for the CSC. McDaniel's Irishpub has fun with prime lake-side seating, restaurant, live and DJ'd tunes. **July 3, 6:30 p.m., Lake Champlain Community Center** info: 325-8330, lakechamplaincommunitycenter.org

Cabot

A Main Street parade leads to an afternoon of fun in the sun, including field games, a chicken barbecue and a dunk tank. **July 4, 11 a.m., Cabot Recreation Field** info: 583-9507

Colechester

Amateur athletes make strides at a fun run, then take in a Main Street parade and evening concerts before a fireworks finale at Daystate Beach. **July 4, 8:30 a.m.-dusk, various locations** info: 254-5548, colechestervt.gov

Essex

Independence Day makes a splash at the swimming pool. Other festivities include live music, a bounce castle, an obstacle course, circus acts and Super Hero Day. **July 4, 6 p.m., Fireworks at 9:30 p.m., Maple Street Park, Main St. Essex High School and rink** info: 579-3375, essexvt.org

Fairfax

A two-mile parade route to the recreation park is followed by the always popular ducky race, now in its 21st year. **July 4, 1 p.m., Fairfax Community Park** info: 840-3541, fairfaxcreation.com

Grand Isle

Neighbors come together for potato- and chicken barbecues, pig contests, pony rides and other blast from the past celebrations. **July 4, 1 p.m., Grand Isle Recreation Field** info: 588-6839, championislands.com

Jay

Dinner, light fare and swimming precede magnificent sky blossoms. **July 4, fireworks at dusk, Jay Village Inn & Restaurant** info: 888-2380, jayvt.com

Jeffersonville

An old-fashioned town parade kicks off carnival-style entertainment and a frog jumping contest. Head to Smugglers North Retreat at 3 p.m. for the Patriots Barbecue on the lawn, patina to music by the Vermont National Guard 40th Army Band and fireworks in front of the Mount Mansions. **July 4, 10 a.m.-dusk, various locations** info: 844-1776, smuggs.com

Killington

High spirits fly at this Fourth of July celebration, which includes a parade, barbecue, polka, pool party and nighttime fireworks. **July 4, all day, Harbert & Johnson Recreation Center** info: 422-2105, discoverkillington.com

Milton

A parade, music, magic, tethered hot air balloon rides and chicken barbecue culminate in "the most spectacular fireworks display Milton has ever seen." **July 4, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Mountband Park** info: 583-4077, milton250.org

Montpelier

Patriots catch street entertainment, circus acts, concerts on the Statehouse steps and a 6 p.m. parade. Downtown fills with birds and writers before evening fireworks. **July 3, 10 a.m.-10:45 p.m., downtown Montpelier** info: 223-9504, montpeliernews.org

Newport

Bring your own picnic to this spirited shindig featuring music, entertainment, kids activities, food and, naturally, fireworks. Start near the boat ramp down Main Street. **July 4, noon-10:30 p.m., Denison Memorial Park** info: 334-6343, kingdonsquad.com

North Hero

Sky bursts bloom after dark at a fireworks celebration in the middle of Lake Champlain. **July 3, park opens at 10 a.m. for swimming and picnicking; fireworks at dusk, Knight Place** info: 249-3436, champlainhero.com

Randolph

Folks reflect an American life in a themed promenade and street fest featuring unique floats, antique cars and live music. **July 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Marchant's Row** info: 328-8227, randolph-champlain.com

Rochester

Patriots celebrate the nation's birthday with the Independence Grey Dash supporting Friends of the Greenhouse project. A color fun community parade follows at 11 a.m. **July 4, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Rockwell Park** info: 767-3631, rochesteramusement.org

Rutland

Award-winning fireworks at 9:45 p.m. cap Summer 2013, which includes carnival style concessions and the Stony Roberts Demonstration Derby. **July 4, 4:00 p.m., fireworks at 9:45**

Independence Day 2013 Celebrations





Burlington Book Fair Book Concludes Nov.

6 p.m. Vermont State Fairgrounds Info: 773-2747, vtstatefairgrounds.com

Shelburne

For the 51st year the church hosts an auction and bazaar followed by a barbecue with all the fixings. **July 4 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** **The Haven United Methodist Church** Info: 888-3881

South Hero

A colorful themed parade starts at the corner of Landon Road and South Street. **July 4 11 a.m.** **Vermont localities** Info: 372-8366 championlandscapes.com

Stowe

This old-fashioned celebration starts with marching music in the Moscow parade. Face painting, music, clowns and food in the village follow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fun picks up at Mt. Asgard Farm at 5 p.m., with fireworks at dusk. **July 4 10 a.m.-dark, various locations** Info: 253-7325 gostowe.com or stoweventrancy.com

Vergennes

Folk art and art as fireworks illuminate the evening sky above the Red Mill Restaurant. **July 3 9-10 p.m.** **Basin Harbor Club** Info: 475-2311 basinharbor.com

Warren

Thousands dance red, white and blue to attend one of the state's largest parades. After they head to Lincoln Peak for a bonfire, live music at Cattleback Pub and dancing fireworks come next. **July 4 10 a.m.-10 p.m.** **Vermont localities** Info: 486-3408 madmonevelley.com

Stiles & Stipes Charity Air Show High Flying Thrills delight crowds at this family-friendly event featuring renowned stunt pilots like Holland Jimmy Parker and Riley Kousenburch. Proceeds benefit the King Street Center. **June 30 gates open at 10 a.m.; show 1 p.m.** **Sugarbush Airport** \$5-10 Info: 486-4123

Waterbury

The two-day fest, quite independent Day Celebration features a carnival atmosphere of clowns, a hypnotic show, lawn-tractor parading a parade, live music and more. Fireworks light up the sky at dusk on June 28th. **June 28 8-10 p.m., June 29 11 a.m.-12 p.m.** **Deer House Field** Info: 756-6055 waterburyfest.com

Williston

Local tribute band British Mafia cover classic pop hits on the green before a fireworks display. **July 4 8 p.m.** **Maple Tree Place** Info: 879-8100 shapetop.com

Woodstock

Independence Day starts off on the right foot with a road race and kids fun run, followed by live music, a community cookout, a flag ceremony and booming fireworks. **July 4 7-10 a.m.-dark, various locations** Info: 457-2505 vntown.org

Old Vermont Fourth Celebrate the Fourth the old-fashioned way — with patriotic speeches, wagon rides, ice cream making and more. **July 4 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** **Stittings Farm & Museum** \$9-12, free for kids under 3 Info: 457-2955 tellingstam.org ☺

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SEVEN DAYS

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The Homegrown Guide to Burlington, VT

Summer Jamz

An all-local's summer mixtape

BY DAN ROLLES



THERE NEEDS TO BE A DISCERNIBLE FLOW, WHICH MEANS SETTING THE TONE FROM THE START.

More than any other season, summer requires a soundtrack and at least one or two good anthems. While many will turn to the guilty pleasures of mainstream pop, we'd encourage you to add some local flavor to your summer playlists, too. After all, one can't submit on Krazy alone.

So with that in mind, here's a smattering of some great new local music to blast in your Beats headphones, whether you're lying out on the beach, straight-forward on a boat, or simply chilling in the backyard with a cocktail. And check out 74bit.com to hear the full Soundcloud playlist.

PERSIAN CLAWS, "WARM CHILLS"

Whether you're sampling tracks to use as the object of your desire or to simply rock out, there is one art to any good mixtape. And the two most important rules are the first and last. There needs to be a discernible flow, which means setting the tone from the start. You don't want to overplay your hand, but you also need to grab the listener's attention with a killer opener. To that end, we're kicking off with the shaka and steam-punk of the aptly titled "Warm Chills" by Persian Claws. Actually, we could go with any song from that band's recently released, well-titled garage-rock opus. It's pretty much the perfect summer record.

persianclaws.bandcamp.com

THE PILGRIMS, "DUCK AND COVER"

We're big fans of the Pilgrims, a punky little outfit who wrote an Windows-based micro-label What Doz! tape "Duck and Cover" in the first single from their band's forthcoming new album, then due out in July. It's a crumb-crumb tune that seems to share some angular DNA with early 74bit Loo and the Pharmacists, or maybe the Angry Young Men or even of Misers. Come to, Parlor and Jackson. Oh, and it's got more hooks than a tickle box.

pigmusic.bandcamp.com

DOCTOR SAILOR, "LAYING IT DOWN BY THE OCEAN"

Villanellas have been a local staple of our summer playlists for years. Unfortunately, the new record won't come out until (drum roll) next Tuesday. But here's some music from Alaska liner that summer. Luckily, Barba has been kind enough to offer "Laying It Down by the Ocean," the lead track from The Gleaner Lyrics, released this spring

under the pseudonym Doctor Sailor. Simply put, the song is as breezy as its name implies. You can almost smell the salty air in its bright, rolling guitar riffs.

doctor-sailor.bandcamp.com

SCOTT BAKER, "LULLABYE"

This is a mix of summer jams, so we should resist our urge to be toward an lullaby in favor of lighter fare. After all, we'll have all winter to be moopy. "Lullabye" from Memphis's Scott Baker (see First Country) opens the box. It's mellow, but convincingly so. Inspired on the local comp State & Main Records. Volume II, its gentle sway and warm, Belle & Sebastian-esque melody makes it the perfect cut for relaxing by an evening campfire with a cold one after a long day in the sun.

stateandmainrecords.bandcamp.com

BLACK RABBIT, "EIGHTY NINE"

After a pair of relatively low-key entries, it's time to pump up the volume. Enter "Eighty Nine" from the self-titled debut EP by Burlington garage rockers Black Rabbit. Sweeping and deliciously in-it, we can't remember a song that makes the combo of "Innocence and cigarettes" sound so damn good.

blackrabbit.bandcamp.com

RYAN POWER, "THE PRIZE"

"The Prize" is the lead single from Ryan Power's new record, Identity Pods. We won't be. The album is not for the faint of heart, or ears. It's a recording that takes a concerted effort to fully appreciate and understand. We think it's more than worth that effort, precisely because of songs such as "The Prize." Early the most accessible and catchy cut of the bunch, it's a bright, bawling slice of electro-pop genius with neo-synth nods to Hall & Oates. That's right, Hall & Oates. You know you love it.

ryanpower.org

NUQA VERITAS, "NEVER"

Burlington's Nuqa Veritas never fails to impress. Or confound. Her latest EP, Misty Haze, is well named (indeed, it has no shortage of sticky hooks, couched in her singular avant-pop style. "Never" is that record's closing cut, a propulsive number that kind of evokes a Devo-Late 60s north border. But also a good rep.

nuqaveritas.bandcamp.com

HELOISE AND THE SAVOIR FAIRE, "BOTTOM TO THE TOP"

Continuing on a theme of very disco-rock, Diamond Dust, the latest full-length from Heloise and the Savoir Faire, is likely to be in its early rotation on the vectors of discerning disco-music fans, locally and beyond, this summer. That's because tunes such as the Midwestern banger "Bottom to the Top" are just irrepressibly groovy.

heloisemusic.com

SHARK VICTIM, "THEME SONG"

We're closing out this mix by local duo Shark Victim with disco hope that it's not a harbinger for those vacationing on Cape Cod this summer. Just-inspired, personable aside, "Theme Song" from the band's recently released debut EP, Stare On the Outside, sounds something like what might happen if Dan Don Girls beat up the jerky singers from the Get Down and Inherited their band. And the inside those play flared-out bass guitars at prominent

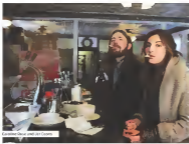
sharkvictim.bandcamp.com

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

that the funds raised are going to some greater cause. I get that times are tough and artists need to do what they can to stay afloat, but your record is not a charity and being a musician is not a seasonal disease. And by the way, times are equally tough for the folks in your audience. In a post-Recession world, I suspect I have slightly less of an issue with album "fundraising" shows, though even that feels gratche — if somewhat more honest. At the risk of drawing my elbows out, back when I was a working-class musician, my bands played lots of fundraising shows to make our records, but we just called them " gigs." Now get off my lawn.

While we're (sort of) on the subject of benefits, did you know that **DMX** is coming to town? And that he's playing the Sheraton Hotel Conference Center on Williston Road in South Burlington this Saturday, June 28? Yes, that **DMX**. And yes, that Sheraton, where you probably had your junior proms — and probably danced to **DMX's** "Party Up (Up in Here)." The show is a benefit for **DMX** and his continuing fight against leukemia. For those who didn't know, A-Do recently underwent bone-marrow transplant surgery and is currently undergoing post-op treatment at the Dana-Farber Institute in Boston. The transplant was a big step in his recovery and came against some seriously long odds, which is of course good news. But he isn't out of the woods and still needs as much support as we can give him. But please, tell me more about your album benefit show.



Listening Session with Jeff Cady

I've been on a pretty serious **DMX** kick of late, which often happens at this time of year, 'cause I do love me some surf guitar. And it occurs to me that for a state without an ocean, we have quite a wealth of surf bands, albeit, making waves locally. With **AMMADRA** back for the time being, I count at least four, including **TRIMMING BRUSH**, Montpelier's **CONCRETE RIVALS** and the newest addition to the fold, **LANGDON STREET CAFE**. Two just spitting fire here, but if I were the booking manager at a cool local club, I might take advantage of that fact and book an all-surf-rock night this summer, if only to appease, well, me. If you want a taste of what that might look

like, catch surf legends **Triples Riders** at the Monkey House this Friday, June 26, with surf-rock garage rockers **AMMADRA** and another punky local garage band, **BLACK HONEY**.

Last but not least, the buzz on the street is that Sweet Melissa's, the hotly anticipated new joint in Montpelier going in to the old Langdon Street Cafe space, is set to open this Saturday, June 28. Inquiries to co-owner **YEN HOANG** here, as of press time, gone unanswered. So I'm really just reporting on rumor at this point. But given how much Montpelier has been starved for another music venue, even speculation seems worth mentioning. Stay tuned. ☺



Dan Pappas

Listening In

a pair of shorties, an englewood, fernside, night-rock, plays, etc., w/ wendy.

ALAN WEST, *Yonkers*
SECRET CHANGING, *France*
STIMULATORY, *Jeffrey*
LARRY, *The Arctic*
BOB CHAM, *King of the Surf Guitar*

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REVIEW *this*Kris Gruen,
*New Comics From
the Wooded World*

(PAPERBACK \$20 DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

With few exceptions, the worst thing that can happen to a gifted songwriter is to grow up — or to get older, but there's a (sort-of) separate case for another day. While there is truth in the age-old axiom to "write what you know," the minute rockers start penning songs about adult growing pains is often the minute longtime fans begin to tune out. Which is why reading that kind of prose, outside of matter of interest to anyone besides the writer, presents such difficulty. And it's one reason *New Comics From the Wooded World*, Kris Gruen's new record by Vermont's Kris-Gruen, is so impressive.

Gruen's latest is an awful treatise on being a well-adjusted grown-up. But he approaches such treacherous terrain with wide-eyed, youthful awe. And so he manages a rare feat: making songs about, for example, whose turn it is to get up with the neighbors ("Whose Gonna Watch the Baby?"), day jobs



("Company Man") and getting older ("Little Apples") universally reliable and compelling. (Hey, even time tested topics like heartbreaks and longing can be stable in the wrong hands.)

Gruen is a transcendently gifted lyricist who weaves narratives and songs here with ease. There's a calm, purposeful naivete in his writing, but never at the expense of emotional impact. Rather, he even locked approach is an uncommonly fine asset, and one that succeeds with feather-light manner and grace.

Similarly, Gruen is a sophisticated composer. Through the record, shades of his formative influences descend. You'll hear goosier strands of Nick Drake and Iron & Wine. There are moments of sublime orchestral release not unlike that of Saigon Cowboys or Andrew Bird. And there are visceral

turns that mirror the early roots of Weezer and the Iggy Azaleas. But Gruen never lingers long on any of these inspirations. Instead, he offers a shy wink before diving into some new, lively space of his own creation. And he often meets up and harmonizes with friends such as Anais Mitchell and Benjamins, writing honestly about being an adult presents unique challenges, but the least of which is potentially boring your audience to tears — or worse, reminding them that they aren't getting any younger either. But on *New Comics From the Wooded World*, Kris Gruen proves that just because you're growing up, it doesn't mean you have to get old. And in the end, achieving some maturity is preferable to being an aging rocker with a Peter Pan complex.

New Comics From the Wooded World by Kris Gruen is available at newcomicsfromthewooded.com. He plays at an album-release party at Physics Pub 2 in Montpelier this Saturday, June 29.

OMI BOLLES

Serotheft,
Serotheft EP

(PAPERBACK \$12 DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

Serotheft, a Burlington-based "two-musician" duet made of quartet, recommends on their website that listeners catch them on the road and "prepare for the ride."

So, one might ask, what does a Serotheft ride look or sound like? To that extent, the band's self-titled debut EP is less party anthem than subdued satire, the advertised fruit and jam is more like the stuff of a sidewalk jazz-festival set. Meaning that you're likely to stop and listen for a minute before moving on.

This is not to say that the boys in Serotheft — drummer Devin Atchafsky guitars Ted Kenney, keyboardist Derek Rice, and bassist Alex Greene — aren't talented. It is saying that they use their prodigious chops to bring boring songs



On the bright side, Serotheft made the wise decision to dispense lyrics (though Kenney and Rice are credited with vocals on the band's website).

The EP's first cut is called "Bike of Doom" and, if it were a dial, its two happy/smooth jazz duo would make many red-blooded listeners ask the waiter to return it to the kitchen. "Bike of Doom" (Oblique reference to a made man? An American-North Vietnamese battle of 1969? The wreckage of some dude named Doom?) has a relaxing

mood that would suit the luteophony. Other tracks have the same feel, from the trying-hard-to-be-funny "Vanilla Buckets" to the overly chill "Carnivale." In other words, for the most part, *Serotheft EP* seems unlikely to create raving.

There is one gem on the release, however: "Altruism," the EP's fifth track, is a haunting, moody effort. Rather than being an informal night, as its name would suggest, "Altruism" is the EP's moment of uplift.

But sample *Serotheft EP* for yourself — it's currently a free download on Bandcamp. Or check them out live: Serotheft play Vermont Pub & Brewery on Friday, June 28, and are throwing an EP-release party on Saturday, June 29, at Nectar's. For more information, visit serotheft.com.

SEBASTIAN WELTON



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Randy Smith and his band, Merry Men

THU 5/27, FRI 5/28 // RANDY SMITH & HIS BAND OF MERRY MEN (ROCK)

Men in Tights Do you think the fable of Robin Hood would have endorsed if Robin's first name was Randy? Probably not. Fortunately, **RANDY SMITH & HIS BAND OF MERRY MEN** are modern, not well-known, and therefore— at least as far as we know. Smith was the co-founder of famed space-rock Vermont hair-metal band KONG. Now based in North Carolina, his current outfit is a little mellower but equally enjoyable. The band has two local shows this week: Thursday, June 21, at the Tapco Music Hall in White River Junction and Friday, June 22, at the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge. Local country singer **KESHAUN HIGLEY** goes on both shows.

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB (Downtown 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free)**MANHATTAN THUNDER LOUNGE** (The Free 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free)**MCKEY HOUSE** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**MURDER** (Jamaica Bright) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free

champaign valley

CLUB LARRY'S (Gardner 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free)**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free**ON THE RISE BAR** (AM & NOT Presents) (single-songer) 10:00-11:00 a.m. Free

SUN 30

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Animal Kingdom

Painter Anna Dibble

BY MEGAN JAMES

There's something magical about Anna Dibble's house, tucked up on a hill in tiny Landgrove, Vt. It's easy to imagine first if you would there quietly until after dark, the most silent animals—living, painted, and sculpted—might prove they had the power to talk.

The 42-year-old artist has spent her career giving voice to animals first as an illustrator, then as an animator for Disney and other studios, and most recently through her adorably droll paintings of dogs, cats and other creatures navigating human social situations.

In a piece called "Unstable Cats," for example, a dog sits at a dinner table with a pair of kitties, one of whom holds up a human puppet that casts an ominous shadow against a sickly yellow background. Dibble's text scribbled on the painting reads, "The dog was so shaken by the prospect of going to bed with two obviously unstable cats, he decided he'd never go on a blind date again."

On a recent morning, Dibble's red-tiled dogs, Radar and Pepper, are much more enthusiastic, they greet a visitor with a chorus of barking, followed by a session of inevitable hand-flicking.

Dibble is dressed in jeans and a casual shirt, yet looks sincerely stylish with a jaunty purple scarf tied tightly around her neck, her long-auburn hair in a girly cut. The '60s was not unusual, she explains. Her husband, John Burrows, did her hair many after a burlesque career, and she lost a lot of her hair on a month of cocaine.

"It's been bad to paint," she admits, especially to match the rate at which she'd been working for the past several years—Dibble completed 40 new paintings last year for a Brown University show. Still, little by little, she's getting back into the routine, a pursuit aided recently by a new commission for a Seattle-based restaurant.

Dibble grew up in an artistic family in Peru, Vt. Her dad, Thomas Rusty Dibble, was a painter who opened a frame shop in Manchester. Her grandfather, whom she never knew, had a comic strip in the New York Sun called "Whoozie" that featured made-up animals. Indeed, hybrid animals are a family specialty. A framed painting of a duck wearing a man's suit, by Dibble's father, sits on his daughter's studio desk.

"When I grew up, [my father] was painting all the time. There were painting supplies everywhere," says Dibble, who began doodling as a kid. As a young adult, she worked on freelance pen-and-ink drawings with watercolor washes



IN A PIECE CALLED "UNSTABLE CATS," A DOG SITS AT A DINNER TABLE WITH A PAIR OF KITTIES, ONE OF WHOM HOLDS UP A HUMAN PUPPET THAT CASTS AN OMINOUS SHADOW AGAINST A SICKLY YELLOW BACKGROUND.



Amalgamated creatures—beginning with her childhood obsession, the duck-billed platypus—were a recurring theme. She recalls an early painting of a rhinoceros with man/bears growing out of its arse.

Dibble's dad for anthropomorphic creatures in hand after college when she got a gig illustrating for "Seaside Street." In 1989, she moved to California, where she worked in the animation studios of Disney, Marvel, Hanna-Barbera and Don

Bluth. "The world of animation is LA in the '80s was wonderful," Dibble recalls. Dibble the live-action Hollywood scene, "it was not slick at all," she says. "Everything was done by hand back then."

Dibble put her own painting on hold until she returned to Vermont in 1990 with her husband. They built the house she lives in now, and she worked the multi-media circuit, selling hand-painted T-shirts and aprons, children's clothes and stuffed (hybrid) animals.

Dibble has two studios in her home, one for painting and one for her commercial work. One wall serves as her greeting cards. Both rooms are treasure zones of inspiration. On the cardboard walls, she tacks up photographs—one shows a dog sharing an umbrella with a baby, its big paw placed protectively in front of the child—as well as preliminary drawings and magazine clippings.

"I try to work as spontaneously as possible," Dibble says.

Recently she's begun each piece by painting a table on the canvas, then populating it with dogs, birds, people and

other unexpected creatures. She loves to build up and take away layers of paint—she might put a guest at the table only to scratch him out later. For instance, Dibble says she always paints the scene before deciding what, if anything, to write as a caption.

The aim is to reach more than charts out chaotic content. "I'm really more interested in the shapes, colors and textures," Dibble says. Attention never wanes with abstractness in the background, along with intriguing, scraped paint textures and striking color combinations.

The artist is currently working on a painting she says is inspired by Tea Party Republicans. An oil brush including literary trappings, a mallet, a ruler and two frolicsome-looking ones in T-shirts, sits together at a table laden with teacups and saucers.

Dibble, who is also a writer, has an essay in the current issue of *Open's Sporting Journal* about catching bugs—for her teeny legs—with her dad and family friend, Alap. When she was a kid, she relates, they'd go out on the pond at sunset with a flashlight, a sword-off beam handle and a bucket with the head over the boat's bow. Then they killed the fish with one swift "topp" of the beam handle.

Her father, Dibble writes, "taught me about the woods, how to camp with minimal equipment, make fires, capture nightcrawlers, fish with worms and with the flies he used, and how to catch bugs. He taught me the names of the indigenous birds, insects and mammals, and how they spent their days and nights in each season. He taught me how to be patient when we watched animals, and how to respect them, the way the Indians did when they shot a porcupine for the deer or bison they were raising."

Dibble's dad also carried a tree trunk into a towering room later that year, now known as the corner of her living room. The piece is at least seven feet tall, but Dibble says some visitors never notice it. The river carrying a fish in a snail, wears a red cloak, its enormous talons clutch the sculpture's base. The bird would be foraging if it didn't seem to have a beautiful fish in its big black eyes.

Kind of makes you wonder what the river might have to say ☺

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INFO
annadibble.net

BURLINGTON AREA GALLERY & TVS

JEANNE GURDNER THORNTON An Affair by Jeanne presents paintings and several small-scale objects by the Vermont artist. Through June 30 at South Burlington. Info 562-1033

KAY SCHWAB Still life paintings by the Vermont artist. Through July 27 at Left Bank House & Gallery in Burlington. Info 762-1029

LARRY TRIM LEE WILBERT VERA NEHRMAN Contemporary film art. **TRAILBLAZER: INSIDE POWERED VEHICLES** An art installation explores connections between film-strip concepts and contemporary culture. **ODDER PLANES**, **LANDSCAPE PHOTOS**—Various artists and formats of prints. Through October 31 at Shedd-Burns Museum. Info 585-3346

MEGHAN BUCHHEIT Crystal being, amorphous paintings that incorporate old human objects in such as vases and coffee pots. Through June 26 at Studio 360 in Burlington. Info 336-0449 or studio360.com

MOLLY PUGH Recent abstract "schemata" on canvas and constructions using only the artist's drawings. Through June 30 at Village Arts. Info 536-0096. Info 336-3486

MOLLY PUGH A Thousand Faces Series • 2001 artist's small portraits incorporating found photographs. Through August 1 at Hauling's Long Market and Coffee Shop in Burlington. Info 333-2275

NO HARMED Works by the studio art and installations of a New England-based artist known as No Harm. Through July 31 at JCK Gallery in Burlington. Info 336-3333 or www.no-harmed.com

PAUL STONE A BURNING WHITE DROMEDARY Stone is a New Hampshire artist whose work is based on nature and color. His art is made from stone, wood, and a wood carving, and a series of 3000 miniature sets by the artist. Through August 31 at the Co. 2000 Collection in Burlington. Info 336-3333 or www.co2000.com

RENEE GALE Paintings of Vermont landscapes. Lake Champlain, Bennington, and more. Through June 30 at Mountain Road & Lake Studio in Burlington. Info 336-3333

PETER HARRIS Sculpture of the performance artist. Through June 30 at Red Square in Burlington. Info 336-3333

PETER HARRIS A Lifetime of Vermont People • A series of small-scale portraits by the Vermont artist. Through June 30 at Red Square in Burlington. Info 336-3333

RENEE GALE Paintings of Vermont landscapes. Lake Champlain, Bennington, and more. Through June 30 at Mountain Road & Lake Studio in Burlington. Info 336-3333

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Dale Chihuly Dale Chihuly claims to have never seen a color he didn't like. The Seattle-based artist, known for revolutionizing the studio glass movement and pushing the bounds of the fragile medium, has created a custom installation for the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts, an view through October 30. Chihuly's obsession with color — red, of course, glass — is apparent in works such as "White Pearl" (pictured), a vibrant flower garden standing 8 feet tall. Chihuly's set of his preexisting masterpieces in the MMA's unique interior architecture, and his four site-specific creations include a ruby chandelier and a bean forest.

TODD A. LOCKWOOD "One Day and a Reason" is a series of small-scale paintings. Through July 31 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

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VICTORS OF A HOMETOWN The Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts is presenting a new exhibition by the artist. Through July 31 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

WINTER WATERS Works by the artist. Through July 31 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

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CINDY KENNEDY "Seasons in Stone" is a series of paintings by the Vermont artist. Through June 30 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

CYNTHIA CHANDLER "Seasons in Stone" is a series of paintings by the Vermont artist. Through June 30 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

ELLEN KIM HARRIS "Seasons in Stone" is a series of paintings by the Vermont artist. Through June 30 at the Marlboro Museum of Fine Arts. Info 336-3333

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CHAMPAIGN VALLEY SHOWS & FEST

NACHO RABBIT "Atmospheric" was award nominated. Through June 30 at Jane Weiss Gallery in Middlebury info: 343-3562

KEVIN BROWN "Thinking (the)" abstract explores some questions for the Vermont artist. Through August 11 at Company House and Arts Center in Burlington info: 247-4000

STING SHOWN WITH GARY
SALADITY Color and environment meet in a new work by Vermont artist. Through July 30 at 33 Main Street in Middlebury

notAvenue

ART ON THE BEACH Paintings and photographs of the seashore in a beautiful space. Through July 22 at Montserrat National Seaside Refuge in Burlington info: 323-3837

CHARLES FRENCH "In Every Moment..." paintings inspired by rock and ocean. Through August 4 at Green Mountain Fine Arts Center in Stowe info: 852-8788

STAY THE LINE AND MAKE YOUR POINT THE PENCIL AND THE POINT CONCEPT. A visual journey of the artist's career and evolution of the pencil in painting a display about a pencil artist, working steps to make fine pencils, an interactive pencil founder artist's smattering of pencils from around the world. Through December 1 at the Museum and Learning Library in Stowe info: 857-4428

JANET WHITTAKER Landscapes and portraits on oil. Through July 30 at Blue Arts Center in Montpelier info: 858-1090

JILL MAGNUS & MARILYN BROWN Mixed media abstractions of natural scenes by two local painters in Burlington info: 263-4363

JOHN BROCKLE & ANDREW TAYLOR "Cars I Love" contemporary automotive sculptures by the Vermont artists. Through July 14 at White Horse Gallery in Fair Haven info: 363-8220

JUNE LEE "Work between Lines" Michael J. Barnett photographs capture landscape and place and architecture. Through June 30 at Artist in Residence Contemporary Gallery in Burlington info: 333-4423

JOHN CROWTHER & GARY WOODWARD A chance to see two regional male artists working with nature. Works on canvas and oil depicting wetland scenes. July through 29 at Vermont Art Museum in Waterbury info: 253-4563

MATT CHASE 28 portraits on paper. Through July 29 at 555 S. Green in Burlington info: 858-7832

MICHAEL LEW SPENCER "Acetate and Abstraction" photographs of the artist's work and art materials and textures throughout Vermont. Through July 29 at Parker Fine Co. in South Vermont info: 352-3265

NORTHERN VERMONT ARTIST ASSOCIATION Works by 100 members on sale with 10% of the total artist's earnings. Through July 31 at Vermont Art Museum in Waterbury info: 858-4183

BLACK HONEYCOMB "The faces of food and food" 1960-1974 photographs by the Vermont musician from his time as a member of the Vermont Trio. Through July 1 at Nelson Fine South Lake Gallery info: 485-4822

GABRIEL ROBERT JARVIS "Sun to Earth" drawings and watercolors. Through June 30 at Ogden's Café in St. Johnsbury info: 748-7555



STUDIOS OF LISA FORSTER REACH Northeast artists to explore what the recent artists as well as long-term advisors have been my time as well as the Stone Center. Through July 14 at Emily A. Goss Gallery in Acute info: 858-3271

TRAVELS WITH ELLEN The gallery collection of artist's work from the 1980s is through its founder. Julie Egan with an exhibit from the gallery's work, painted in the countries over 10 years. Through September 3 at Aspen National Gallery in Jacksonville info: 344-1002

THINK INSIDE Painted photos by the Vermont artist. Through September 30 at Jane's Home Studio in St. Albans info: 333-4334

VISIONS OF A HORIZON The William Adams. A collection of paintings and drawings commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Green Island and the 20th anniversary of the year 1914. Through June 30 at William Adams Office

southern

OF MINDS "The People's Choice" a series of sculptures and works on paper inspired by the words that artists have been inspired by. Through July 14 at Southern Vermont Artists Association in Montpelier info: 363-1423

PRODIGES: VISIONS OF SPRING More than 100 new works inspired by the spring season. Through June 30 at Winter House Gallery in Burlington info: 363-1423

RED GROUND WHAT'S THE SILENCE An artist's journey through the art of the landscape and the human condition. Through July 14 at Southern Vermont Artists Association in Montpelier info: 363-1423

'REJUVENATION'

Less is more in Jan Lynn Rosenberg's genre photographs. The Hudson Valley artist poses her art-focused shots on Japanese washi paper, creating images that recall the split-toned photographs of the prodigal son. "It is, in fact, the common wooded landscape of my day-to-day life that captures my attention," Rosenberg writes of her work, which is featured at Patchogue Soundside Gallery in Shelburne, June 28 through August 12. More than a dozen local artists' works accompany Rosenberg's in a show called "REJUVENATION," the gallery's 22nd annual summer group show. Writings: "Degraded (Washed Tips) No 3"

REGIONAL

20TH ANNUAL JAMES COLUMER COLLECTION The 20th Annual James Colomer Collection. Through July 29 at Art Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon info: 858-448-2311

DALE CHERRY "This Part" an exhibit of glass sculptures. Through July 29 at the Vermont Museum of Art in Montpelier info: 363-1423

ONE PERSON Paintings and drawings by the local artist. Through July 14 at 55 S. Green in Burlington info: 333-4423

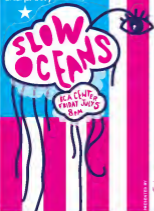
IT WOULD MAKE A GREAT BIRTHDAY PRESENT "The People's Choice" a series of sculptures and works on paper inspired by the words that artists have been inspired by. Through July 14 at Southern Vermont Artists Association in Montpelier info: 363-1423

THE WOODS OF STONE MOUNTAIN The artist's work from the 1980s is through its founder. Julie Egan with an exhibit from the gallery's work, painted in the countries over 10 years. Through September 3 at Aspen National Gallery in Jacksonville info: 344-1002

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Andrew Wyeth, *Seagulls*, 1960s. Wyeths in Museum gift program. Shelburne Museum. © Andrew Wyeth

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movies

World War Z ★★★

You know you've rocked up serious mental movie when you can remember watching the film that started it all — George Remick's *first night of the living dead* — with your friends in an old-fashioned movie theater took it a couple of days and definitely not wearing it. I'd never seen it before, but I'd heard some news of an upcoming shooting production would one day be selected by the Library of Congress for preservation in the National Film Registry as a work deemed "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant." Or that it would spawn a profitable franchise much less a cult fan base.

We were too busy laughing to comprehend the authentic significance of what was happening on that screen. Laughing at the prospect of a character usually falling victim to lambasting members of the audience who while greatly enjoyed the movie, were far superior to those who were more so. I'm not sure if it was a laughing matter or a laughing matter.

It's been nearly a half century since that night, and a lot has changed. My friends have remained essentially the same, but the movie has changed. And today's movie has a much more significant history. The walking dead are now and improved. As re-

surrected in movies such as *George Remick's 2000* (2002), they're not only fast of foot but increasingly inclined toward global domination.

The theater of battle between the living and undead has expanded incrementally from a single family dwelling in 1938 to a shopping mall in its 1998 sequel *Down of the dead* to in *George Remick's* the megacities of London. So it was only a matter of time before zombies took over the planet, which is the premise of *World War Z*, a \$200 million adaptation of *Max Brooks'* 2006 bestseller from director Marc Forster (Oscar-nominated *There Will Be Blood*).

David Pitt plays a former United Nations investigator who reluctantly leaves his family behind when permanent officials convince him the fate of humankind rests on his very particular set of skills. Like much of the movie, the first act is a combination of spectacular visuals and sloppy storytelling. It's all very much of the *World War Z* kind, finding a Philadelphia-based hero has trouble getting much attention. But it poses the question: How did the zombie apocalypse begin? The answer is the result of collapse without enough citizens leaving it was about it. As *WWZ*'s first film is brief, the president's already dead, and



WARRIOR Pitt plays the former UN investigator who reluctantly leaves his family behind when permanent officials convince him the fate of humankind rests on his very particular set of skills.

world capitals have largely gone dark. "The film's writers as *World War Z* would say, 'I've seen this before'."

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the planet's already dark. "The film's writers as *World War Z* would say, 'I've seen this before'."

to do with the fact finding that led up to it. Pitt's character makes an incredible leap one he could've made without ever leaving his couch.

The filmmakers deserve credit for not spending more of that \$200 million blowing stuff up. (Well, actually they did — but then perhaps a smaller ending.) Pitt gives a credible performance despite a so-so supporting cast and a highly questionable script.

While the picture has been heavily overshadowed by its sequel, *World War Z* is a refreshing change and easily the most epic contribution to the genre to date. Whether films have gotten bigger since 1968. While they've really gotten better in an other question altogether.

RICK KIDMAN

Before Midnight ★★★★★

Watching *Before Midnight* in a multiplex is a strange experience. Here's a movie about two people who drive and stroll through the Greek countryside and talk sometimes in marathon single takes. That's pretty much all that happens. Meanwhile, in the theaters, the movie's apocryphal explosion of raw, honest emotion is an approaching storm.

The background music is unimpressive yet it fits. In every movie that takes human relationships seriously, there's a storm on the horizon, one that induces a more immediate, reliable dread than the disarming mechanics of suspense. *Before* could ever do it's a show that with every scene deluged with love. Separate, it's a storm.

"This is the end," Celine (Julie Delpy) tells her longtime partner, Jesse (Ethan Hawke), toward the start of *Before Midnight*, the walking out about the end of the world, because the end of their relationship, which began way back in 1995 with *Before Sunrise* in that film. From writer-director Richard Linklater, the young Jesse and Celine met in Vienna, spent a summer night exchanging their deep thoughts on love, and other stuff (but not passion) things will do and go on.

It was a surprisingly poignant and honest movie, but not as good. *Before Sunrise* (2004), in which the couple, nine years more dis-



THIS IS THE END Delpy and Hawke have met and their relationship has been in *Before Sunrise*, *Before Sunset*, and now *Before Midnight*.

tingled, met again. This reflected the spark but Jesse was married to someone else.

Nine years later, we find Jesse divorced and living with Celine. But not married. They're raising their 7-year-old twins (Jennifer and Charlotte Prior) in Paris and vacationing in Greece. But this is no happily-ever-after.

It's also not necessarily "the end," as Celine's daughter, obsessed mind. Like so many couples, this one faces a crossroads where their personal and professional goals appear to diverge. Over the course of an af-

ternoon and evening, they'll discover if their bond can take the strain.

How do they do that? They talk. And talk. And talk some more. What *Linklater's* movie shows your average dialogue heavy movie is not just the intelligence of the conversation — spurred by the director and the two stars — but its broken and humor. He holds us breathless. While *Before* acts like the "movie of the moment" on *Amazon*, *Before* just as often plays the *Amazon* audience. They show us their worst sides and, on occasion, their best. Along the way, they handle

break life into stereotypes (best case) and women in relationships and talk on the deeper truths about it.

Some viewers may be put off by Celine's hypocritical, dreamy, quasi-flying — it's essentially the same, pretty much. *Before* is a movie that's been directed. It's in *Paris* and *2* (the *Before* series has been twice as good as any other in the world) extreme keeps the intention lively and the story high.

One of the film's most sobering results: Jesse is lost for all the superficial stuff in their lives. Celine and Jesse haven't changed that much in 10 years. At 41, they're still working some higher loss, some deeper fulfillment, some sense that this is finally real life. Can they ever expect to find it?

Perhaps the movie's wisest moment comes not from the protagonists but from veteran Greek actress Stella Katsouridou, whose character describes to Jesse, Celine and their friends how "it is to live her husband." She concludes "We are all just passing through." Suddenly the couple's clashing opinions seem a lot less important than their presence to each other here and now.

Before Midnight is also just passing through, by *Linklater*, it may have emerged from local theaters. This one still exists in this October on video.

HAROLD HARRISON

NEW IN THEATERS

THE KING OF KINGS **B** Soft-Corpus director Chris Nashawaty leads a gang of spoiled & cruel nobles through a series of vicious, bloody wars. (PG-13)

THE LAST DANCE **D** A biographical doc about the life of Michael Jackson. (PG)

THE LAST DAYS **A** An intimate portrait of the life of the late actor James Dean. (PG)

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NOW PLAYING

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ratings

★ = excellent
★★ = very good
★★★ = good
★★★★ = fair
★★★★★ = poor

THE LAST DAYS: A
THE LAST DAYS: A
THE LAST DAYS: A

THE LAST DAYS **A** An intimate portrait of the life of the late actor James Dean. (PG)

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DEAR TALK-INTO CARPENTRY MAN: Once again, thanks J.J. Abrams put me in with the second set of friends. This time the crew of the *Enterprise* is having a love war on optical man, and he has to take care of it. And I should clarify, I'm just the cool, Nerf Chris Eric Zachary Quinto and Dan Gheesla (102 and, PG, 13).

STORIES WE TELL ********* Author/Interviewer Sandy [Toss] *THE WORLD* Puffin offers a documentary about the troubled history of his own family including the parents' often disastrous marriage and a reflection on his own choices and confusions. *Parents' Magazine* (1996) 100, 100, 100, 100

[illegible]

MAKING THE 2nd grade: For parents specifically know that slams the seeds in "Good P" Entries in a limited adaptation of Max breeds anastrophic reveals a life-long play by the 12 to appear in worldwide play: "W" 1960s from and Gernika Barbra Max's [Luzerne of] [Sahel] Family (Shaw) 1960s, 1970s

NEW ON VIDEO

THE CALL ★★ Kate Winslet plays a W impertinent who finds herself up-against a cruel king after she takes a call from an alchemist who's trading souls (and the Marlowe) to heaven. With Al Pacino, Brad Pitt, and Meryl Streep. (PG-13)

THE INCREDIBLE BURT WOODRUFF HE HAS A superstar magician (Steve Carle) fires incredible illusions his staff in his comedy. Starring: Jai Carey, Steve Carle, Jane Lombardi, Ron Allen, Chris Webb and Jay Mula. On-airing: check, 10/10 am, 80/100.

NEWS Can cheap college loans help defeat political tyranny? That's the question posed by this Oscar-nominated satire in which Carol Garcia (Anna Paquin) and an inner-turmoil-laden conservative Christian couple plot to vote against Barack Obama in President's Eve. **L** (rated PG-13) (R)

REVEALING THE TRUTH In *Williams' Fishery*, David Duchovny and Lance Henriksen star in this Webby-nominated TV Secret submarine whose commander has received a potentially world-altering message. *Fishery* submarine director [OT over N]

MOVIES YOU MISSED & MORE

[illegible]

Upstream Color

This week to master: you missed:
The director of cult flick *Pleasant* returns with an experimental opus about the bond between human and... *sewer?*

OK, that's not exactly what *opiate* and *Chloro* is about. For a laugh, maybe he summarized though.

Amy Seimetz plays Kris, a professional who's abducted and fed a worm that

places her in a suggestible hypnotic state. Her abductor exerts his control by instructing her to do odd repetitive tasks that makes her sign over the equity in her house.

Things got worse from there. Kris ends up in the care of a sound artist/western-garde composer/jug thumper (Andrew Sarnecki) who performs a procedure that gives her back control of her mind and body, but leaves her with a big hole in her memory.

As she rebuilds her life, Kris meets a young man (writer-director Shane Carruth) who appears to have had a similar experience. They become involved while trying to figure out what the hell happened.

Though I no longer have a local source of paper and art files (i.e., a photo store) we do recommend my Mom's You Missed. Check out the live culture blog on Friday for gardens and when possible, outdoor water demonstrations.

Volunteers needed – hospice patients with dementia or Alzheimer's

We are looking for volunteers to spend time with *care hospice* patients who have dementia or Alzheimer's and provide support for their family caregivers. If you would like to make a positive difference in their lives, we want to hear from you!

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Abstract *Staphylococcus aureus* is a common cause of nosocomial infection. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of *S. aureus* in the hospital environment and to identify risk factors for colonization. A total of 100 samples were collected from the hospital environment and analyzed by PCR. The results showed that 60% of the samples were positive for *S. aureus*. The risk factors for colonization were identified as the presence of a catheter, the use of antibiotics, and the duration of hospitalization.

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[illegible]

Research conducted among us (Harris, 2002) suggests that the following factors are



fun stuff

MORE FUN! STRAIGHT DOPE (P.22) CROSSWORD (P.C. 5) & CALENDAR & SUDOKU (P.C. 7)

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Curses, Felled Again

When long-distance runner Sarah Tetterton, 32, saw a man ride off after stealing her bicycle from her garage in West Seattle, Wash., she gave chase on foot. The thief saw her gaining on him, so he jumped off the bike and fled while she continued running alongside him, yelling for neighbors to call the police. The neighbors then said the man asked her to halt off, but she refused, telling him, "Look, I was going to run six miles today, but I would probably do 12." Police, who interrupted the pair arrested the unidentified suspect (Seattle's KING-TV).

A man with a knife tried to rob Dorothy Baker in Baytown, Texas, by hiding in her minivan and threatening her and her sons, ages 5 and 2, as she drove off. When she ignored his instructions to make a turn, he moved to the front row, threateningly dialing 911 on her cell phone, she then grabbed the knife from his hand and began punching him in the face, all while continuing to drive. She said she ordered him out of the vehicle, and he complied, but she realized, "If he gets away, he can do this to somebody else." She began pursuing and ended up running over him. Police identified the suspect as Samuel Martinez, 53, after he was airlifted to the hospital (Houston's KHOU-TV).

Second-Amendment Follies

Police investigating the shooting of a man riding a bicycle in Remond, Va., said that John R. Allers, 48, was loading his gun inside his house when it accidentally discharged, striking the passing cyclist in the stomach. (Associated Press)

Mind Your Manners

Larry R. Garner, 49, was using a public restroom at Robinson's Branches Old Lake when Christopher Wilson, 36, opened the unlocked door. He closed it after Garner told him the restroom was occupied but chased Garner afterwards about his poor restroom etiquette. According to Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner, the confrontation escalated when Wilson pushed Garner, prompting Garner's 19-year-old son, Jesse Lee Hubler, to punch Wilson in the face. Three women with Garner then attacked Wilson's roommate, Rachelle Prosser, 37. Detectives cited Wilson, Hubler and the three women for assault. Garner wasn't cited, Wagner said, because "he's the poor guy who's just using the restroom, treating his own business." (Lancaster Journal Star)

Nude Behavior

Homeowners called police after Thomas Edwards, 25, showed up at their residence in Casselberry, Fla., and started taking off his clothes on the back porch. Edwards explained that he had come to the address his girlfriend had given him to propose to her, but the homeowners and the warrant in their house and that they had never heard of her and didn't know Edwards. When officers arrived and asked Edwards to put his clothes on, he spit on them, prompting them to shock him with a taser, gas and arrest him. (Orlando's WKMG-TV)

After a British court imposed an antisocial-behavior order on a failed, rightist actor Stephen Gough, 54, stating that he must cover his buttocks and genitalia in public, he was arrested leaving the courtroom wearing only boots and socks. He refused to take clothes off, leading to him being poked and stung with floating the order. Gough, who has been convicted 26 times for public nudity, received an 18-month sentence that time. (BBC News)

Reasonable Explanation

When Chicago police arrested Xavier Gutierrez, 35, for a drive-by shooting that wounded a 21-year-old man in the area, Gutierrez explained that his

became "crazy" after his child's mother refused to let him see the child on Father's Day and "someone had to pay" (Chicago Tribune)

Death and Life

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals urged White House executive chef Cristina Christensen to join leading restaurants and Whole Foods Market in refusing lobsters to death with dignity. "There is a new device available called the Cruximator that eliminates the questionable practice of boiling lobsters alive, thereby preventing their suffering," David Rye, PETA's manager of corporate affairs, wrote in a letter to the chef. "We hope that the White House will start using it immediately. The device is essentially a strainer that kills lobsters instantly." (Washington Times)

Drinking-Class Hero

After police stopped Erin Jones, 58, for speeding and driving under the influence in Skokie, Ill., she explained that she had been out celebrating the imminent return of her driver's license from an earlier drunk-driving conviction. (Chicago Tribune)

BLISS BY HARRY BLISS



"More importantly, what's the meaning of that top jett?"

TED RALL

"THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WHO DIE IN TERRORIST ATTACKS IS COMPARABLE TO THE NUMBER CRUSHED BY THEIR TELEVISIONS." — THE ATLANTIC



"THE NEXT TIME SOMEBODY GETS CRUSHED BY A TV, THE MEDIA IS GOING TO ASK IF WE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT IT."



RED MEAT

manured humor buried grounds

From the award-winning
MAX CANNON



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



FUNGUS

A COMIC STRIP BY
JAMES KOCHALKA
(NATIONAL ACADEMY OF HUMOR)



THE END ?



Cancer

(June 21-July 20)

"In order to swim one takes off all one's clothes," said 18th century Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. "In order to swim to the truth one must undress in a far more broad sense, divest oneself of all one's inward clothes, of thoughts, preconceptions, selfishness, etc., before one is sufficiently naked." Your assignment in the coming week, Cancerian, is to get as natural as like that. It's time for you to make yourself available for as much of the raw, pure, wild truth as you can stand.

when it didn't sink and long after she died that I was trying to make a point that will be useful for you to keep in mind. Taurus, which is the signpost of earth and desire and material things, stay alert for seemingly odd-looking but on really time-working half truths, as very of an elusive group that would cause an interesting niche.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Finally, the celestial partner Charles Howard, level to point water, and he did so over and over again for many years. Eventually he created about 200 stars that parlayed these looking forwards. Should we conclude that he repeated himself too much? Should we declare that he was being rigid? Or might we wonder if he kept finding new designs in his comfortable world? Would we have enough patience to notice that each of the 200 paintings shows the water lines in a different kind of light, depending on the weather and the to man and the time of day? I vote for the latter view and suggest that you adopt a similar approach to the deeper things in your life during the coming weeks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Sensitive Sam was sensitive about being stuck in a job where he hardly. But he had an easily elevated perception at his own words. Think of the little and Hester: she said "think of the difference and think of me." On another occasion she proclaimed "I think we are the greater philosopher than of the century and I live between the centuries. Every mind of the century? Do you know anyone like that?" And Hester's truth is my approach. To some degree we are all like that. Every one of us has at least one unshared idea about ourselves. — a combined self-concept that doesn't work really. It was my task to outline my spiritual outlook in a few words, you may would be an excellent time for you to deal with yours. Don't be too hard on yourself though. Just recognize the million laugh and it, somehow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) When I close my eyes I get a psychic vision of you in a big playing outside on a warm summer day. Nature with friends, laughter in the air that commands your full attention. Suddenly you hear a jingling tone signaling your way from

a distance. It's the first cream truck. You stop what you're doing and run inside your house to get your mom for some money. A few minutes later you're in a state of bliss, communicating with your friends on the bus come or otherwise. I bet that I have a feeling that you will soon experience an adult version of the same. Vega Metaphorically speaking after the ice cream truck or the ice cream woman will be coming to your neighborhood.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) During the past 10 months you have been unusually adventurous. The last time you ventured so much courage and experiences may have been 2003. I'm impressed! Please admit my mind and perception. We had a secret about knowing when it was time to push beyond your limitations and boundaries. You have achieved in some ways about making when to be self and cautious as you wander through the frontier. Now here's one of your assignments for the next 10 months. Consider that you're in the line of the mountains and decide how you will use your wisdom to build an unshakable power spot back here in the heart of the action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Michael Fleming (1919-1987) was one of the most influential scientists in history. He produced major breakthroughs in both chemistry and physics. How you may use wisdom that you're on electricity? You can think him for playing a major role in developing that wonderful convenience. And get some more scientists to help bring the most demanding group of mathematicians. In fact, his natural education was negligible. I propose that we name the new role model of the week into a starting example of the fact that you conserve at your chosen goal for many different paths. Keep that mind flycatcher even though to believe that there's just one right way to build your dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) "The story that we hear from history," said the German philosopher Georg Hegel. "Is that we never learn anything from history." I'm using you to refute that statement in the coming weeks. Sagittarius, in passing with you to search your memory for every possible clue that might help you be better.

in dealing with your incredible future. What have you done in the past that you shouldn't do now? What haven't you done in the past that you should do now?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) According to my analysis of the astrological charts, now would be a pretty good time to talk about things that are hard to talk about. I don't usually discuss that with you, but I want to do so. I suspect it would be relatively free of any astrological speculations. There may even be a touch of pleasure on the otherwise lack in fact if it's you. Capricorn, summarize the causes to explain truths that have previously been hard to pin down. Artistic feelings that have been murky or hidden. Real results, encourage them to trust to do the same.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Are you feeling a bit bored? It's a high point played by security in the fictional world of Harry Potter. An even book in the series mentions it, so it's an important element. Author J.K. Rowling says she dreamed up the story after having a quarrel with her boyfriend. In my dream, I heard you," she reports. "I would quite like to see him but I'm a bit of a dragon." (In Quidditch is played in a top school, but made of iron.) I bring that up, Aquarius, because I suspect that you too are in a position to use your mind in a creative and constructive way. Take advantage of your own emotion to make lasting improvement in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) In its astro poem "You See" by John Bollen, "I've never understood it touch the best of happiness — it's in heaven. And whatever good I might have felt before, I'm sure I'm inside you." You might want to write that down in a slip of paper and carry it around with you this week, Pisces. According to my understanding of the astrological system, the best of happiness is never in season for you. You have good reason to shed the underlines of sadness and fear you carry around with you. Let that go. The last line of Bollen's poem, "become they who play." Sometimes I think it's best just to take pleasure whenever we want and can. Look the lights in your old wall-hanging. (The full poem: <http://www.johnbollen.com>).

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WOMEN *asked?*

SEX RANTED

Looking for someone that does not mind her legs being tied to a bed or bed? Harriet is not alone with her desire. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEX BOOBY

Just ask looking for a good one. Info: www.dreamstime.com 32

BISEXUAL INTEREST

The house would be handy while if you would tolerate to find friends and friends. My most beautiful friend is a very beautiful and sexy girl. I am a very beautiful and sexy girl. I am a very beautiful and sexy girl. www.dreamstime.com 32

GENERAL SEXY BOY TO GOBY

I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SUMMER GIRL ON GIRL FIVE

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SECKING SUMMER GIRL

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

OPPORTUNITY TO BE REACHED

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

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HOMER

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEXY SPOT

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

INTERVIEW INTEREST

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

EXCITING ADVERTISING

I am a young professional whose profession is late last night. I am a young professional whose profession is late last night. I am a young professional whose profession is late last night. www.dreamstime.com 32

MEN *asked?*

LOOKING FOR PERFECT WOMAN

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

EVERYDAY TO THE POINT

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

GENERAL, NEED DISCREET DISCOUNT

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

STICKING AND TINKER INJECTION

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

ADVERTISING REQUIRES SOME RISK

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LETTERHEAD DISCREET

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

NOT FOR THE DISCREET?

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ADVERTISING TO OLD FASHION

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

GIRLS *asked?*

SEX BOOBY

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEX BOOBY

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

HARVESTED COUPLE SEX RARE

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEX BOOBY

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEX BOOBY

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

HARVESTED COUPLE SEX RARE

Looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. I am looking for a sexy, tall, and sexy. www.dreamstime.com 32

SEX BOOBY

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mistress maeve



Dear Mistress

I am outgoing and open in many aspects of my life but when it comes to talking about sex, I always become too shy and have trouble expressing or talking about what I want from a partner. I am open to trying just about anything, and I have dirty talk and being dominated. Even though I know that about myself, I still find that I don't know how to express it. What's up with my vocal "shrinkage" as soon as I am asked what I want?

Speechless

Dear Speedy

Even for outgoing people, speaking up in the bedroom can be intimidating. To get things moving when the cars got your tongue, try being honest. Sounds like you're fortunate enough to have partners who ask you what you want. There's nothing wrong with saying "I have fantasies I'd like to share, but I feel a little bashful." Some patients coming from an interested partner will go a long way to combat your vocal "shrinkage."

That said, if you still have a hard time vocalizing, let's not forget about other modes of communication available today. If you want to get the ball rolling down a specific way pathway, why not send an email? Sending a link to your favorite piece of erotica is sure to start a dialog. Or, if you know your partner shares your interest in dominance, why not send a link to a new blindfold or pair of handcuffs you like to try? And don't discount the power of a well-timed text message. You may not be able to perform a monologue about sex right now, but you should be able to craft a brief suggestive text. Fill on the blanks, "I've been fantasizing about you putting... in my...". Think we can try that tonight? The answer to this question, whatever the blanks are, is likely to be positive and spark the sexy conversation you're yearning for.

Like any daunting task, fear of the unknown is usually the worst part—once we take the first step, we generally see that it's not so bad. So get talking, sure, you may stumble and stutter in the beginning—but don't let that stop you. The more you assert yourself and ask for your desires to be fulfilled, the better your sex life will become.

Obviously yours

mm

Need advice?

Email me at mistressmaeve@sevendaysvt.com or submit your own advice on my blog at sevendaysvt.com/blogs

dating.sevendaysvt.com

Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the inhibitor on the rate of polymerization.

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Burlington, Vermont

We think Nail Pattern Boldness' pretty polishes are as fun and funky as can be! Creator Allison makes nail polishes free of carcinogens and cruelty without skimping on sexy sparkles and creative color. Her lovely lacquers are as fanciful as they are guilt-free!

HEALTHY LIVING LOVES LOCAL



NAIL PATTERN BOLDNESS